Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-155 *14 August 1989*

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Honduras Withdraws Objection to UN Observers

PA1208202189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0247 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 August (DPA)—Today, Honduras withdrew its reservation to the formation of the Group of UN Observers to Central America [Grupo de Observadores de las Naciones Unidas para America Central] (ONUCA), thus starting to comply with the peace agreements.

Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras sent a note to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, "officially withdrawing the mentioned reservation."

The peace agreement signed by the five Central American presidents on 7 August established in an annex that Honduras would withdraw the reservation it had added to the request for ONUCA's formation that had also been addressed to Perez de Cuellar. ONUCA's objective is to supervise the Honduran borders and verify that Honduran territory is not used by rebel forces to attack other countries.

Honduras had signed the original petition to Perez de Cuellar on 31 March, but immediately added the reservation that it conditioned its request on Nicaragua's withdrawal of its charges against the Honduran Government at the International Court of Justice.

The complete text of the note addressed to the UN secretary general was given to the media by the Honduran Foreign Ministry this afternoon and partially states "it is understood that (the reservation's withdrawal) will go into effect when the Nicaraguan Government withdraws its request from the International Court of Justice [words indistinct]."

The Honduran and Nicaraguan presidents, Jose Azcona Hoyo and Daniel Ortega, respectively, signed an annex to the final Tela agreement where they established the provisions for an out-of-court agreement. Honduras agreed to withdraw its reservation about ONUCA's formation and Nicaragua agreed to withdraw its charges against the Honduran Government.

ONUCA will supervise the use of territories, and the Central American countries have agreed that it will be formed by military or police personnel from Canada, Spain, the FRG, and possibly Venezuela.

Sarney Opens Culture Ministers' Meeting

PY1008181989 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpts] This morning, President Jose Sarney opened the first meeting of Latin American and Caribbean culture ministers at the Itamaraty Auditorium. The 20 culture ministers will continue meeting until 12 August.

President Sarney said that the Latin American and Caribbean peoples have a right to education and culture. He added that immediate action is required to grant them this right. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting, the culture ministers will sign an agreement between all Latin American and Caribbean countries. The agreement includes the free circulation of cultural goods, tax exemption for the circulation of books, and the creation of a common market for movies and video cassettes.

Correction to Text of Tela Declaration

PA0908210889

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Tela Declaration, 'First Annex,'" published in the 8 August Latin American DAILY REPORT, page 9:

page 9, column one, paragraph three from bottom, last line make read...and Nicaraguan refugees without affecting previously signed agreements on this matter. [new graf]

In accordance with...(adding dropped words).

page 10, column one, paragraph two, line eleven, make read...to be repatriated within the period of implementation of the current plan. In these cases...(rewording).

Cuba

Foreign Minister Malmierca Holds Talks in CSSR

FL1108151189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] On his 2d day in Prague, the beautiful capital of the CSSR, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca met with CSSR First Deputy Premier Bohumil Urban. They discussed bilateral relations and international problems.

Upon his arrival on Thursday [10 August], Malmierca met with Jaromir Johanes, his Czechoslovak counterpart, with whom he talked about the recently concluded Central American summit meeting and the foreign debt. They also dealt with the preparations being made for the ninth Nonaligned Movement summit meeting and the most recent steps taken for disarmament.

Bilateral relations between Cuba and the CSSR were characterized as very positive, especially after the visit paid to Cuba at the beginning of this year by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

Meets With CSSR President

FL1208135089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes has said Cuba is recognized by the international community because of its consistent anti-imperialist policy. Johanes stated this during a luncheon he hosted in honor of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who has been paying a 4-day official visit to the CSSR since Thursday [10 August]. Johanes highlighted the successful development of Cuban-Czechoslovak relations in all spheres and said there are still numerous possibilities of increasing them.

For his part, Malmierca noted that the struggle for disarmament and development need to be linked because, if we want to achieve a world of peace, contradictions between North and South need to be eliminated.

Malmierca met yesterday with CSSR President Gustav Husak, party leader Jozef Lenart, and First Deputy Premier Bohumil Urban.

Jorge Risquet Meets FRG's Helmut Schaefer

FL1108203089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1952 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and PCC Secretariat of the Central Committee, has received the delegation headed by the FRG's minister of state for foreign relations, Helmut Schaefer.

In a meeting termed as constructive, the officials exchanged views on the present international situation, world peace, and disarmament and its relation to the Third World's development, as well as the regional conflicts in Central America, southern Africa, the Middle East, and other regions of the world.

Both men agreed that the resources saved by disarmament could be used to attain cooperation for the Third World from the industrialized countries. Risquet and Schaefer said that they were in favor of finding solutions to the exhausting foreign debt problem. They also termed the present ecological problems as a grave world problem.

By invitation of the MINREX [Ministry of Foreign Relations], Mr Helmut Schaefer is making an official visit to Cuba. In his talks with Risquet, Schaefer mainly talked about the Central American situation. Both officials analyzed this problem in view of the recently held Central American presidents' summit in Tela, Honduras. Risquet and Schaefer noted the significance of the agreements reached at the summit, as well as the importance of Schaefer's visit to that region to meet with the five Central American presidents.

Risquet said that Schaefer's meeting with the Central American presidents will be Western Europe's contribution to the peaceful solution of the problems in Central America. Both men agreed that the origin of the conflicts in that region are based in the economic underdevelopment of those nations. Risquet noted that our nation supports the Tela agreements.

When speaking of Namibia, both officials said that success there will be an encouragement for the oppressed people of South Africa.

Minister Interviewed, Departs

FL1208010789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Moments before leaving our country, Helmut Schaefer, FRG minister of state for foreign relations, granted a press conference.

In his statements, the German official referred to the talks he held last night [10 August] with the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, Fidel Castro.

[Begin recording] [(Schaefer, in German with simultaneous Spanish translation)] I want to say that I am very grateful for the long talks I was able to have with Fidel Castro and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez on matters that, on the one hand, affect us directly, but also go beyond that subject matter. When we talk of foreign policy, we are referring to the agreements reached at the Tela conference, as well as their results. We were very interested in hearing the Cuban views on this situation. We believe that these agreements, the Tela agreements, are very

positive and could lead to a peaceful solution in Central America. This, of course, is as long as the agreements can be put into practice. [end recording]

Another matter discussed during the conversation with Fidel was the current situation in southern Africa. Schaefer noted the FRG's acknowledgment of the Cuban efforts to achieve peace in that region, especially in regards to Namibia's independence and the internal normalization of Angola.

In his talks with the Cuban leaders, Schaefer agreed on the need to further promote disarmament and the international easing of tensions so that more resources can be devoted to problems related with the development of the more indebted countries, as well as the protection of the environment.

Answering a reporter's question, Schaefer said that during his tour of Central America, he will meet with the five regional presidents to find out, in detail, how the agreements reached at the recently held summit are going to be implemented.

On bilateral relations, Schaefer said that he agreed with Cuban officials to increase cultural and scientific exchanges, as well as tourism. Also expected are closer relations between both nations and more visits by FRG officials to Cuba.

At the airport, acting Foreign Minister Jose Raul Viera and other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Relations [MINREX] bid farewell to the visiting delegation.

Schaefer arrived in our country last 9 August in fulfillment of an official invitation by the MINREX. He termed his visit to Cuba as excellent.

Venezuelan Trade Delegation Arrives in Havana

FL1208114589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1115 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] A Venezuelan delegation has left Caracas and arrived in Havana. The delegation is headed by Dr Gabriela Febres Cordero, chairwoman of the Institute of Foreign Trade of this South American country. Upon her arrival, Dr Febres Cordero said her visit is aimed at increasing and encouraging Venezuelan-Cuban trade in various areas, tourism among them.

CC Member Addresses Internationalists

FL1108182289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Over 300 internationalist combatants paid tribute today to Lieutenant General Antonio Maceo, his aide Panchito Gomez Toro, and Blas Roca Calderio at the monument erected at El Cacahual in honor of the patriots who have given their lives and greatest efforts during the revolution. Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] leaders and high-level officers of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and MININT [Interior Ministry], and members of political organizations were present at the ceremony. [video shows military ceremony in front Maceo's monument]

Speaking during the event, Felix Perez Martinez, member of the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] Secretariat, highlighted the unselfishness of these internationalists in the fulfillment of their duty. [video shows unidentified person speaking]

[Begin Manuel Pineiro Losada, member of the PCC Central Committee, identified by caption] Dear internationalist combatants, you maintained without dismay the revolutionary principles that guided and still guide the people of Cuba and made the racist attackers bite the dust of defeat. There was no hesitation, no one moved a single millimeter from revolutionary positions, and everyone, from chiefs and officers to enlisted soldiers, kept in their trenches that essential ingredient of the revolution and socialism which is internationalism. Thanks to this, which was expressed in the uncompromising battle against the enemy, we today have the victories of Angola, Namibia, and the rest of the African people. This contrasts with other situations which present an uncertain future for other peoples in other regions of the world. [end recording]

Repeater Stations Improve Reception in Valleys

FL1208013889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] One result of the work done by technicians and engineers of the Central Laboratory of Telecommunications is the television repeater stations. Presently, there are 35 of these installed in the mountainous regions of the nation.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is the purpose of this equipment?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, the main function of the television channel repeater equipment is to carry the television signal, the channel, to the towns that are in valleys and other areas where the channel's signal is not easily picked up. In Minas de Matahambre we have both television channels, Channel 6 and Tele-Rebelde, and they reach the population. They are picked up by a main repeater on a hill and the signals are then retransmitted with increased strength so that the television signal can be picked up in the valley. Otherwise, the signal would not reach them when it is directly transmitted from the main transmitter in Pinar del Rio. This is a typical use for one of these television repeater stations that we have.

[Reporter] Why is it advantageous for us to produce this equipment in our country?

[Speaker] The advantage, from the point of view of substituting imports, is great. This is because it would cost some 20,000 pesos in easily convertible currency to import a 10-watt channel repeater. [end recording]

Enterprise Officials Sanctioned for Illegalities

FL1108233889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2312 GMT 11 Aug 89

[From "Exclusivo"]

[Text] Santa Clara's municipal prosecutor's office has sanctioned (Juan Rafael Capito Abespo), director of the people's power's Military-Technical Supply [ATM] enterprise in Villa Clara, as well as three assistant directors of this enterprise, for serious violations of socialist legality.

The prosecutor's office proved that there was a notable diversion of resources when this enterprise commercialized ATM materials that were to be used in construction. The total estimated value of these diversions is 390,000 pesos. The men did not deliver materials to enterprises that did not have records or assignment schedules.

This deviation, a deviation of resources, has seriously affected the delivery of construction materials to the Housing Conservation and Services Enterprise; this is the enterprise in charge of distributing these materials so that they can then be sold to the population of Villa Clara.

As a result of these activities by the ATM of Santa Clara, the enterprise's fundamental responsibilities were disregarded. In turn, the ATM illegally received over 90,000 pesos. Because this enterprise did not claim merchandise that should have been received from various suppliers, Clara's ATM did not fulfill its contribution of over 1.5 million pesos to the national economy.

Also, as was later proven, the enterprise had a lack of control in some of its warehouses, as well as a deficient system in collecting debts; the enterprise had not collected over 1 million pesos in outstanding debts.

Two Men Arrested for Illegal Money Trafficking

FL1208174889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] The 10th unit of the National Revolutionary Police in Havana's 10th of October Municipality has arrested two citizens accused of illegal currency trafficking and other criminal activities. [video shows photographs of two men] Carlos Fernandez Echevarria and Juan Carlos Fernandez Quintana were arrested after a house search was conducted during which almost $1,000 and over 7,000 pesos were seized. The money was a result of illegal transactions with Cubans and foreigners. Gold and silver jewelry [video shows jewelry] gathered for the same purpose, coins from various countries, film rewinding machines, video equipment, and color television sets, were among the evidence found. [video shows video equipment] The authorities are continuing the investigation.

Mailman Arrested for Stealing Citizens' Mail

FL1108153089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Police report]

[Text] The case we are going to report to you shows that lack of control and negligence in some state organizations still favor conditions which lead to criminal activities. The name of the individual accused in this crime of theft and violation of the mail, as well as lack of compliance with his work duties, is Ramon Sanchez Espinosa. He lives at 14 2d St, Reparto Roberto Reyes in Bayamo, Granma Province and worked as mailman in a post office in this province's capital.

According to investigations conducted by members of the provincial unit for the fight against economic crimes in this eastern territory, the aforementioned individual, after receiving the letters at the classification center in order to deliver them to their addressees, went to his home and opened the mail, took what he found inside the envelopes, and burned the rest.

When the home of the arrested man was searched, police forces seized over 200 letters. Internationalist combatants had sent 23 to their relatives, 18 post cards were sent from abroad, and there were 48 magazines for subscribers.

According to the report sent by our correspondents in Bayamo, Granma Province, Sanchez Espinosa confessed. He has been indicted and is in provisional detention until the investigation is completed. Then, he will be turned over to the tribunal that will try and sanction him for having violated the laws in force.

Haiti

CATH/CLAT To Hold National Congress

FL1108155589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1300 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpts] In order to define its new operational line, analyze the general crisis suffocating the nation, and mark its 30th anniversary, the CATH/CLAT [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers Affiliated with the Latin American Central Organization of Workers] will hold a national congress from 10-13 August at Delmas 105, also known as Freres Road, in Petion-Ville.

CATH/CLAT Secretary General Jean-Claude Lebrun said this congress is going to be a means of assembling Haitian workers and laborers so that the Haitian people's

struggle can progress. CATH/CLAT provides support for all sectors of the nation. That is why they say this congress is a national congress. Lebrun added that almost all the conditions for the success of the congress have been met. However, it is very difficult to guess how many people will participate, because in addition to the people affiliated to CATH/CLAT—some 300-400 people—other people will be participating as guests.

As at all congresses, said Lebrun, they will take advantage of this opportunity to open the participant's eyes to the equivocal policies that are leading to turmoil in Haiti, as well as other problems, such as the workers' travails in the factories.

Lebrun added that CATH/CLAT asks all sectors in Haiti to support this congress in one way or another, because this is the first time a union federation in Haiti is organizing a congress to further the Haitian people's struggle. [passage omitted]

Addresses Given 10 Aug

FL1208122089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] ...Georges Fortune traced the history of the union movement in Haiti, which began in 1903. The Haitian working class has been striking serious blows ever since.

Fortune stressed that CATH/CLAT [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers Affiliated with the Latin American Central Organization of Workers] is not going to allow itself to be confused by politicians. He also said he felt there had to be dialogue with all sectors. Fortune called for unity among all Haitians, which he says is the only way Haiti can be pulled out of the catastrophic situation it is in.

We will have you listen to an excerpt of what Georges Fortune said at the opening of the first CATH/CLAT congress held at the new CATH/CLAT headquarters on Freres Road yesterday afternoon.

[Begin Fortune recording] Well, now we are making an effort to separate union action from the actions of political parties. The union movement is doing certain things. We have the problems of the suffering working class before us. Our action is political in that we are working to solve the problems of the working class. That is our politics. [applause]

Political parties have their own actions, their own work to do and they should do it. However, we will not allow political leaders to confuse us as to what constitutes political action and what constitutes union action. Ah, no! [words indistinct] [applause]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

After Georges Fortune, CATH/CLAT's president whom you just heard, CATH/CLAT Secretary General Jean-Claude Lebrun also spoke. Lebrun judged all sectors responsible for the woes of the Haitian people. In this light, he defined the mistake made by political leaders as that of tearing one another apart instead of all mobilizing in a single direction. Listen to Lebrun.

[Begin Lebrun recording, in progress] ...not to merely state the problem in terms of the form of government but to come up with a platform that is an alternative to the (?current form of government). When you say it isn't good, you must offer an alternative, gentlemen. And there lies (?your) weakness, gentlemen politicians.

(?You) remain trapped in chronic individualism, with every man thinking he is omnipotent and can solve Haiti's problems all by himself. (?That is) clearly impossible. What was true yesterday and is true today will always remain true. A country cannot (?be made up of many) people and yet have any one man believe he can liberate it. This is b s [blof]. It will never (?work). [applause]

However, (?there is no way we are going to) just sit there and assimilate the politicians. (? No way we are going to) strike out blindly at the government in the sense that (?just because) it is this government that is in power at present we strike out at it, but were it any other government we would not strike out at it.

Fortunately or unfortunately, it wasn't Ti Loulou [nickname of Louis Dejoie II] who came to power on 29 November. However, I assure you that if he had indeed come to power, I would (?be perfectly capable of) striking out at him, hard, every time his government did something wrong. [end recording]

Social Affairs Minister Arnault Guerrier also made a speech. Minister Guerrier discussed the importance of the working class in Haiti. He said all sectors of the nation have to mobilize to rebuild Haitian society. Here is Social Affairs Minister Arnault Guerrier.

[Begin Guerrier recording, in progress]...[word indistinct], that has a history I can remind you of. It was a simple idea before January. We elaborated it and launched it in February of 1989. We went around the country to present and discuss it with workers, employers, peasants, womens, and youth organizations. People are enthusiastic about the program.

Now we feel we have progressed enough to hold regional seminars to group the departments together; so that they themselves can tell us what real problems exist in their departments, section by section, commune by commune; so they can finally attend a national conference where we will come up with a plan for this struggle against poverty.

But what does this program consist of? There are two aspects to it. One is what we call social rehabilitation but which is a social justice aspect.

Right now, 75 percent of the population of Haiti does not have the minimum conditions necessary to live like a human being—whether in terms of education, drinking water, schools, health care, or sanitary facilities. We say that quickly, regardless of what sacrifices have to be made. Everyone must be mobilized, all sectors, all kinds of people, and particularly the public powers to provide these people with a network of basic services because this is only just. It is those people who made Haiti and have kept it alive for 185 years. And yet, it is they who are the victims, not only of this generalized recession but, historically, they have always been the victims.

The second aspect of the program—the one we call the socio-economic aspect, which is the most important one—asks, precisely, what kind of society we want; how we are going to re-organize the country's culture so that we can modernize it; how we are going to perhaps solve the problem you just brought up here, the problem of land in Haiti; what role the peasants are going to play in (?organizing themselves), in managing what they do and how they are going to profit from the results of the work; how we are going to redefine an industrial policy that has a new class of entrepreneurs devoted to developing the national economy; how the workers are going to participate as social partners, including the necessary sacrifices, of course, from the point of view of productivity and general production; and how they are going to benefit from a system of social protection and social security, the result, yes, of growth and development in Haiti.

As far as we are concerned, these are the most essential problems we are facing along with the problems of political organization. And this requires, precisely, (?structures) because the Haitian crisis is not exclusively junctural. It is also a structural crisis. That is, this society is organized in such a manner that it renews poverty. The more time that passes, the poorer we will be and the more poor people there will be. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We took advantage of the opportunity afforded us by the opening of the CATH/CLAT congress to interview Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the MDN [Mobilization for National Development], who thinks that the Haitian working class has made big efforts since 7 February 1986. Mr de Ronceray said one feels that there has been a great dawning of awareness, and a shouldering, with great determination, of responsibilities by the union organizations. [passage omitted]

[Begin de Ronceray recording in progress, in French-]...effort does not pass through privileged channels of solution. That is, the setting in place of a constitutional, responsible government, which enjoys both national and international trust. [passage omitted] There is no other way out. We must resign ourselves to progressing. [passage omitted]

I think a society never dies. Only individuals die. There are still values waiting to assert themselves. There are still well-prepared men and women left in this country. There is also a lot of dormant determination [volonte]. All we have to do is set in place the proper, enlightened, guiding arrow, and you will see that all these dormant energies will reappear, will bounce back. I am convinced that Haiti is going to emerge into that horizon of light that we are determined to build. [end recording]

Panpra on Coming Elections, Political Situation

FL1108171089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] During a special meeting in Port-au-Prince last Saturday and Sunday, 5 and 6 August, the delegates of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, Panpra, discussed certain current events such as the political juncture and the coming elections. The delegates feel the current political juncture is due to a climate of confusion persisting in Haiti because of the existing division among the democratic forces (?and) the repression against diverse peasant groups. Because of all these things, the current political juncture in Haiti is unusual.

Panpra says this situation is the consequence of, on the one hand, the ambiguous policy of the military government and, on the other hand, the democratic opposition's inability to present a united front, vis-a-vis the government, which can offer opportunities that are clearly in favor of the Haitian people.

Regarding the elections to be held very soon in Haiti, Panpra reaffirms its faith in the organization of truly honest and democratic elections, which the Panpra delegates say is the only way to get Haiti out from under this business of having a provisional government, which has lasted too long.

Panpra also feels it is urgent for the political forces to seek the path of unity. This is not the time for political forces to tear one another apart. Panpra says it is ready to enter into proper negotiations with all other parties to quickly come up with a true national alliance for democracy in Haiti. Only an alliance well-founded on a broad democratic sector in Haiti can contribute to offering a valid and credible alternative for the Haitian people, says Panpra in its press release, a copy of which it sent us here at Radio Nationale.

Lastly, Panpra reminds us that it will hold its first national congress from 29 September to 1 October 1989.

Union Holds Press Conference on Members' Arrests

FL1108175889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Report by Michel Lubin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Four members of the Metropolitan Area Public Transportation Drivers Union were arrested at around 2200 last Sunday, 6 August, at the home of union Secretary General Jean-Claude Pierre-Louis on Arcachon 32. Yesterday, union members held a press conference at approximately 1000 at their headquarters on Rue des Miracles for the purpose of highlighting how they and the secretary general were arrested.

It was reported at the press conference that the four union members were released on Monday, and Mr Pierre-Louis on Tuesday.

According to union President (Cajuste Lexius), the four union members had gone to Pierre-Louis's home to try to reconcile Pierre-Louis and his wife, who were having a domestic problem. The union members were arrested by four agents, dressed in civilian clothing, from the Investigations and Anti-Gang Service of the Port-au-Prince Police. The agents did not have a warrant. It seems two other men showed up while the anti-gang men were discussing the matter. (Lexius) said one of them was a traffic policeman, and that his badge number is 212. It seems the traffic cop invited Pierre-Louis to go outside so he could beat him up. [passage omitted]

Grand Bois Peasants Demand Citizens Release

FL1108140289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Report by correspondent Milceus Gaspard in Grand Bois, Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Three months after two people were killed and two people were seriously wounded in a shoot-out, along with nine houses that were burned to the ground in Ti Bois (?and) Grand Bois, peasants of the third communal section of Marchand are still being repressed. Many arbitrary arrests are being made. [passage omitted]

According to the peasants of Grand Bois, (Souvenir Joseph) and (Dubermann Dorvilus), who have been in jail since 18 May 1989, are now being taken back and forth between Saint-Marc and Marchand because the district's captain refuses to keep them in a jail cell or release them without a formal report. They are today behind bars in Marchand, despite the fact that Interior Minister Acedius Saint-Louis on 4 August 1989 released 10 prisoners from (La Tapie) and Grande Saline, as well as two people accused of being involved in the Grand Bois land conflict.

The peasants continue: Former militia commandant (Clausel Prophete) arrested Nicolas Castelli in July without saying why. (Clausel) (?beat) former prisoner Castelli, who paid 650 gourdes [$130] to be released. This former militia commander has reportedly received rifles from the section chief of the third communal section of Marchand, Hyppolite Pierre, so he (?can) go and shoot in Grand Bois. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, the people who went into hiding have not yet returned, because they are afraid of being arrested arbitrarily or subjected to other pressures. Thus, rice lands have to lie fallow because their owners are still in hiding. [passage omitted]

The peasants of Grand Bois are demanding the unconditional release of (Joseph) and (Dorvilus), who have been in jail since May 1989. They are also demanding that Justice Department authorities quickly open an investigation so that the land can be returned to those peasants who have ownership documents and to prevent the big landowners, who have not planted in Grand Bois, from harvesting. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Gas Station Attendants Threaten To Strike

FL1108205089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2037 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, August 11, CANA—The threat of a major strike by Jamaican gas station attendants looms here after a meeting between the Dockers and Marine Workers Union [DMWU] and gasolene retailers held on Thursday failed to resolve a 10 month old day dispute.

Another meeting has been set for next Thursday to look at the problem. But there are sharp differences between the two sides. The Dockers and Marine Workers Union which represents the attendants is asking for a 50 percent pay rise, but the retailers through their organisation, the Jamaica Gasolene Retailers Association [JGRA] are offering seven percent, an offer which has been rejected by the DMWU.

President of the union, Milton Scott, described the offer as "ridiculous" after 10 months of negotiatins. He told the retailers to go back to their "source" and to make a better offer.

The retailers contend that under the 5 percent profit margin set by the government, they cannot entertain additional costs.

They said that each time the parties negotiated the JGRA had to make submissions to the government through the Ministry of Mining and Energy to get an indication as to the improvements which could be considered under an increased profit margin.

St Lucia

Booklet on Eastern Caribbean Unity Published

FL1208162389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1610 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Aug 12, CANA—The St Lucia Committee for OECS [Organization of Caribbean States] unity on Saturday [August 12] released its first publication on a form of union for the OECS. The booklet, outlining possible forms of a unity government was distributed as part of the weekend VOICE newspaper. According to the publishers, the booklet will soon be made available to people in the other member territories of the OECS.

The publication entitled "The Union of East Caribbean States—Thoughts on a Form" is written by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Earl Hunteley, who is also a member of the committee. He said that it is expected to stimulate and focus discussion on a political union.

"I believe that if people are to vote on a referendum on the desirability of political union, they need to know what form of government the union will take," Hunteley said.

"Up to this point the discussion on political union has centered more on the benefits of union. What the booklet attempts is to shift the debate to focus on the question on a form of government," Hunteley added.

At least three islands St Lucia, Dominica, and St Vincent and the Grenadines have agreed to work towards a referendum on political union by January 1990. Well placed government officials say that they expect the process to be somewhat delayed in Grenada as a result of the political problems now confronting the country.

The booklet is divided into three sections: first the background factors which should be taken into account in trying to work out a form of government. There is also a resume of the three classical forms of political union and the question of the relevance to the OECS. The publication in addition presents two models of a federal form of government. It carries a cover design depicting a flag for a possible union of the OECS.

El Salvador

FMLN Leader Comments on Tela Agreements

PA1208172689 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Aug 89 pp 1, 13

[Interview with Salvador Samayoa, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front Political-Diplomatic Commission, by unidentified reporter—place and date not given]

[Text] [Reporter] President Cristiani and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] have termed the summit results as "successful." What are the elements that draw the difference between Cristiani's appraisal and the FMLN appraisal? For whom are the agreements more or less beneficial?

[Samayoa] The agreements are beneficial for the peace process and the political solution of the armed conflicts. The agreements obviously take us back to the original Guatemala agreement, where all measures for democratization were established: democratization, internal dialogue, national reconciliation, and internal solutions for the conflict. Cristiani has probably not grasped the extent and the dimension of this process. Therefore, he believes he can manipulate and distort the real content and interpretation all international forces have given to this agreement.

[Reporter] The agreement, however, clearly mentions there will be a "voluntary demobilization" of the FMLN. How do you understand the inclusion of such a term in the agreement?

[Samayoa] In Tela, it was clearly established that the processes in El Salvador and Nicaragua are not symmetrical. The demobilization of the contras has been regulated and scheduled, and depends exclusively on the Honduran Government. In the case of El Salvador, the "demobilization" would have to be the result of a dialogue process, of a political negotiation, of a concerted effort, which already was carried out in Nicaragua and which has not even started yet in El Salvador.

[Reporter] What is the meaning, for the FMLN, of the fact that the principle of symmetry was not enforced?

[Samayoa] It is a clear recognition of the FMLN's strength as a political force. It also recognizes it has a totally different nature than the contras, and particularly notes that the FMLN is a force fighting in Salvadoran territory, unlike the contras, which have been settled in a foreign territory.

[Reporter] How probable is a dialogue in El Salvador?

[Samayoa] Given the tremendous internal disagreements between those in power in the country, they will most likely receive the announcement for a dialogue with mistrust. This will create conflict for Cristiani. The ruling group will look at the possibility of dialogue skeptically and cautiously and will make every possible effort to avoid such talks. We will, however, keep stressing the need to initiate this dialogue as soon as practicable.

[Reporter] Regarding the U.S. intervention plans, what could be the significance of a dialogue in El Salvador?

[Samayoa] We must take into account that the presidential agreements truly mark the end of a stage of the U.S. strategy in Central America. Since the beginning, the U.S. Government planned to defeat the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran revolutions. The fact that a dialogue and a political solution are being demanded is forcing the United States to shift its policy in El Salvador.

[Reporter] What will be the future of the national liberation movements in Central America after the Tela accords?

[Samayoa] Much brighter than before. It is important to note that once the demobilization of the contras was agreed upon and a schedule for it was established, the Salvadoran problem is less subject to ideas of "symmetry" and wrong parameters and definitions. Once the problem of Nicaragua has been settled, we will be able to move on to tackle the Salvadoran problem, taking everything fairly into consideration.

Other revolutionary processes can also achieve a considerable number of political openings to the extent that they make their forces more dynamic and take advantage of the requirements for true democracy in this peace process.

[Reporter] Is this the basis for the FMLN's current military offensive?

[Samayoa] We have continued our military offensive because we understand that every political negotiation is always a problem of correlation of forces. Nicaragua has nearly solved its problem by defeating the counterrevolutionaries politically, militarily, and diplomatically. In our case, and taking into account the differences between the two countries, we think a change in the correlation of political and military forces will lead to a negotiated solution of the conflict. This is the framework for our continued military offensive.

[Reporter] Will the FMLN make another formal attempt to force a dialogue with Cristiani, now that the accords have been signed?

[Samayoa] Of course, because we want to take advantage immediately of all political openings, both here and abroad. For instance, we have reiterated the Central American community's demand to reinstall a National Reconciliation Commission. There is a possibility that the UN and the OAS, which are already playing an observing and supervisory role in Nicaragua, can play a similar role in El Salvador as witnesses or as organizations offering their good offices. The FMLN will very soon make new proposals in this context.

Rebel Commander on Willingness To Negotiate

PA1308031389 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Aug 89 p 9

[Text] The Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is willing to begin negotiations through a dialogue with the Salvadoran Government to achieve social justice and lasting peace.

Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, a member of the FMLN's political and diplomatic commission, stated this to Tegucigalpa's HRN [Voz de Honduras] radio station.

The Salvadoran guerrilla said that the FMLN has seen that the Central American presidents are greatly interested in finding a solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

In this regard, she said that over the past few days, the FMLN has been working on forming a commission composed of the Salvadoran opposition parties so that it will serve as intermediary between the government and the FMLN to create the conditions for the start of a really serious dialogue.

"However," she said, "we want to know the government's reaction and the importance it plans to assign to the dialogue. We will gauge this when we see the composition of the government-army commission President Alfredo Cristiani will appoint. Based on that, we will appoint our commission, which will have authority and the ability to participate in a direct dialogue."

On behalf of the FMLN, Guadalupe Martinez said that "the Tela agreements have definitely had an influence on our organization, as they have had an influence on the entire world. We particularly view as positive the fact that they addressed our problem in a serious manner. This forces both sides in El Salvador to adopt serious positions."

Nevertheless, she categorically stated that rifles will be silenced in her country when they reach agreements that show there is serious and responsible progress in the search for peace and social justice.

Minister: 'Nothing To Negotiate'

PA1108203289 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Report by Joel Burgos]

[Text] The government has nothing to negotiate and a dialogue will take place only following a guerrilla cease-fire, Defense Minister Rafael Humberto Larios has said.

The Armed Forces has explained its position regarding a dialogue between the government and the guerrillas. It said there will not be any talks if the guerrillas do not suspend their hostile actions. Defense Minister Rafael Humberto Larios, who accompanied President Alfredo Cristiani to the summit in Tela, Honduras last weekend, said the government will not hold any dialogue with a rifle at its back.

[Begin Larios recording] We really believe we cannot hold a dialogue with a rifle at our backs. We must suspend all hostile and violent actions so that we can sit down at the negotiating table and hold a dialogue. I believe that if we are to hold a sincere dialogue, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] must understand that all hostile actions must end. [end recording]

The problem is now whether the guerrilla cease-fire should come before or after the dialogue. This has created controversy and contradictions within the government. The Armed Forces made it clear today it will not stop its counterinsurgency activities in different parts of the national territory. Another point being discussed is whether there should be a dialogue-negotiation or just talks. Opposition parties speak of dialogue-negotiation; however, the defense minister said today there is absolutely nothing to negotiate.

[Begin Larios recording] A dialogue is a conversation, it is an exchange of opinions, it is sitting down at a table and discussing certain issues. It is different from the concept of negotiation. [end recording]

Following the latest agreements reached in the Central American presidential summit, the possibility for the resumption of the dialogue between the parties involved seems more real. Some political parties, which are playing an important role in the problem, say there is goodwill. However, the unsuccessful dialogues held during the Jose Napoleon Duarte administration still remain in people's minds.

Ungo Scores Statements

PA1108233989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Interview with Guillermo Ungo, secretary general of the National Revolutionary Movement and Democratic Convergence leader, by David Rivas; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ungo] Salvadoran Defense Minister Rafael Larios made a number of statements recently on the Tela agreement and the related negotiations, dialogue, and end of hostilities in El Salvador. I listened to his statements carefully. In fact, I recorded his statements, so I have had time to listen to them several times. I am concerned about these statements. First, Defense Minister Larios made contradictory statements and at times they are almost unintelligible, because you really cannot understand what he is saying. There are other times when Minister Larios' views are at odds with President

Cristiani's. Minister Larios said the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] must end hostilities to begin the dialogue, though he contradicts himself later on.

In addition, the most worrisome aspect of Minister Larios' statements is that he differentiates between a dialogue and negotiations, and then he ends up saying that there is nothing to negotiate and that, therefore, there is no basis for a dialogue.

These statements indicate that, according to the defense minister, a dialogue must be held in times of peace. We believe that position is absurd, because the purpose of the proposed dialogue and negotiations is to achieve peace, since we are now in the midst of an armed conflict.

This demonstrates how members of the Armed Forces High Command are trying to make decisions on matters dealing with the dialogue, and the Esquipulas II agreement is not a matter that should be decided on by the Armed Forces. Issues dealing with the Esquipulas II agreement should be handled by the appropriate officials and entities, which in this case are the president and the Foreign Ministry.

We have noticed how every other day the commanders of various barracks and other command posts, colonels and generals, make statements of a political nature. They are demonstrating daily not only the calculating and disobedient position of the Armed Forces, but also that real power is in the hands of the United States. For this reason, I believe President Cristiani is beginning to find out something that former President Jose Napoleon Duarte has known for about 5 years and that others who have held that position in the past also discovered: Civil power has not been able to control military power. We will wait and see how President Cristiani resolves the difficulties he is surely facing within the government to implement the commitment he made in Honduras—to initiate a real dialogue and not just a dialogue for the sake of having a dialogue; to initiate a dialogue to negotiate a political solution that should culminate in a demobilization within the framework, spirit, and logic of the agreement signed in the northern Honduran port of Tela.

[Reporter] Dr Ungo, last week it was mentioned in Honduras that the Salvadoran Government's positions are sometimes confusing and that the government lacks a definite policy. It was said in Honduras that Salvadoran officials often say something and then President Cristiani contradicts them. Is this evidence of a division within the governing party?

[Ungo] Surely there are differences, contradictions, opposing interests, and lack of experience and political acumen. This is the first time they have been in power. Being in the opposition is not the same as being in the government. This has led to hesitation and to an undefined position. We are acting on the basis of what President Cristiani said when he committed himself to a dialogue without conditions and to a cease-fire. This is our position, regardless of the fact that we have interpreted the agreements differently than President Cristiani. We believe that a cease-fire should be agreed on. We believe the peace process requires that. I am saying this because he has cited Chapter 3 of the Tela agreement as well as Chapter 2 of the Esquipulas II agreement, which clearly state that there should be an agreement on a cease-fire. It makes no sense, however, to negotiate peace while insisting on peace as a condition for negotiations.

[Reporter] Do you think the Army could change its attitude and subordinate itself to President Cristiani?

[Ungo] I believe that in this case the position of President Cristiani should prevail because his signing of the Tela agreement is very fresh, and if he does not make good on his commitments, it will become plain who really is in command, who really governs this country.

FMLN Rejects Official Dialogue

PA1108224089 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Text] In a letter addressed to President Alfredo Cristiani, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has rejected an official dialogue commission established by the government and reaffirmed its willingness to resume talks to negotiate ways to bring about peace soon.

The letter was given to President Cristiani on 8 August but has been kept secret until now.

In the letter, which is dated 6 August, the FMLN states its willingness to resume talks with the government but rejects the commission established by President Cristiani for this purpose, because, according to the FMLN, it is not made up of officials with decision-making power. The FMLN adds that this commission does not view negotiation as the dialogue's objective and opposes the participation of Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas.

According to the FMLN, holding talks with commissions with little representative or decision-making power would only result in unproductive dialogue that would exacerbate the war and fail to meet the country's demands for peace.

In its letter, however, the FMLN described as positive an initiative submitted by opposition political parties to hold a simultaneous dialogue with the insurgents.

As for these two initiatives, the FMLN states: We are willing to explore these new ideas within a serious negotiation process as soon as possible to end the war. In its letter, the guerrillas also point out to President Cristiani that economic measures decreed by his government, the amendments to the Penal Code, and the increase in the number of political prisoners are worsening the problems that brought about the war.

In conclusion, the FMLN points out that it will remain in contact with President Cristiani through opposition political parties and Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas. The letter, which was given to President Cristiani on 8 August, was signed by the FMLN'S five main commanders.

Commentary on Negotiations

PA1208153989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0014 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Salvadoran Defense Minister General Rafael Larios, who together with President Cristiani attended the Tela meeting, has rejected all possibilities of negotiations with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. The opinion of the minister of defense of a country at war carries great weight, thus the statements given by him have caused much concern among the groups interested in participating in the country's peace process.

Hugo Carrillo [National Conciliation Party secretary general], who only yesterday spoke with great optimism over Cristiani's positive attitude, which, according to Carrillo, favored a negotiated solution at a meeting Cristiani held with political parties, expressed his confusion following Larios' statements. We feel it is necessary to know whether Larios' statements represent the government's official position. To begin with, these statements contradict the president's, who approved the Tela agreements in his own handwriting.

Dialogue and negotiation have always been difficult processes that have served to test political resolve. Each time the possibility of dialogue emerges, difficulties arise. The statements by the defense minister are the first stumbling blocks. The FMLN has requested a meeting with [San Salvador Archbishop] Rivera y Damas to ask what ideas he might have on the dialogue and on his participation. Likewise, we have sent official communications to the OAS and UN secretaries general to ask for their ideas on how these international organizations may contribute to the peace process in El Salvador. As the popular saying goes, actions speak louder than words. Anyway, there are two sides to a conflict and the bad news given by a defense minister demands that a president who supposedly rules the country and has committed himself in writing states the government's position.

Vice President Comments on Return of Refugees

PA1208160789 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Report by Joel Burgos; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Approximately 7,000 Salvadoran refugees in Honduras will be repatriated in the next few months. The government announced that it will send a commission to Honduras to discuss with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and that country's authorities the repatriation of approximately 7,000 refugees.

[Vice President Jose Francisco Merino] "We will be sending a commission to meet with UNHCR and Honduras officials and establish a plan to repatriate Salvadorans staying in Colomoncagua, San Antonio, and Santa Marta. Officials of the ministry [not further identified] and the General Immigration Directorate and the Foreign Relations Ministry will be part of this commission. They will work out the details of the plan."

In November 1981, the Honduran Government placed thousands of Salvadoran refugees in camps located a few kilometers from the border with El Salvador. The Mesa Grande Camp began with 4,000 peasants who fled the war here. According to UNHCR, 4,535 refugees have returned to El Salvador since 1984. Of these, 625 returned in early 1987, and since that time the rate of return has increased. Since the start, the chief problem for the government and the Salvadoran Armed Forces has been the destination of the peasants. The current government plans to resettle them in controlled zones, something some humanitarian organizations do not support.

[Merino] "As the experiences in places where the peasants have chosen to go have demonstrated, their living conditions do not improve after 3, 5, or more years. They may be even worse off than they were in the Honduran camps. We do not feel that is humane or just."

Another problem is the constant charge that the refugees help the guerrillas. According to an army report, weapons and ammunition were found at the Colomoncagua camp. The Salvadoran Government says the arsenal came from Nicaragua.

[Merino] "FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] groups are using the refugees. The FSLN has been supplying the weapons. The Sandinist government admitted it has been supplying military aid to the FMLN. Armed groups, logically, were not involved in the transfer of the weapons, but instead, they used as cover the Salvadoran refugee centers in Honduras, where there are mostly women, children, and elderly persons. They hid all their ammunition in those camps."

Still, more Salvadorans are expected to be repatriated from Honduras. UNHCR notes that from a legal standpoint nothing can prevent the Salvadorans' return. However, it happens that the refugees' places of origin are located in strife-torn areas, and national security interests prevail over any other consideration.

Venceremos Charges Bustillo With Corruption

PA1308043989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] laws are apparently not applicable to ARENA members. Cristiani Burkard time and again talks about enforcing the law against whoever breaks it. In Tela he never stopped talking about the legal state that his government was consolidating and he also talked about fighting corruption.

Given Cristiani's statements to the international media in Honduras, we publicly challenge him to answer: What court of the Republic is trying Air Force Commander General Juan Rafael Bustillo for the crime of selling—for 4.8 million colons—airplane fuel that was donated by the U.S. Government to the Salvadoran Air Force? This fact has been ascertained by the U.S. Congress Accounting Office. The high-octane fuel was sold by Gen Bustillo to the U.S. Government's own agencies.

We ask Cristiani: What kind of legal state is this where high-ranking military commanders do business with dollars from the U.S. Government's aid with impunity? Is this the war that Cristiani has reportedly launched against corruption?

We ask Ambassador William Walker: What measures have you taken, as representative of the U.S. Government, to ensure that the law that he [Cristiani] reportedly defends is enforced concerning this case of embezzlement—which violates the rules that regulate the U.S. military aid to El Salvador? Ambassador Walker, you have the right to speak.

Bishop's Brother To Be Released on Bail

PA1208151489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2315 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A Salvadoran court today ordered the release of Salomon Rosa Chavez, brother of San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, after a $1,200 bail was paid, a court source reported. Judge Luis Morales ordered the release of Salomon Rosa Chavez, charged with carrying false documents and attempting to bribe the police.

The Archbishopric legal adviser, Telmo Ruiz, had requested the release of Salomon Rosa Chavez, who has been imprisoned at the "La Esperanza" penitentiary located in Mariona City, northern San Salvador.

Morales maintained that the petition "is lawful" because the crimes for which Rosa Chavez has been charged are punished with a sentence not greater than 3 years in prison.

According to police reports, the accused was arrested 2 weeks ago in a village in northern San Salvador and was charged with belonging to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas. Military reports state that Salomon Rosa Chavez belongs to the People's Revolutionary Army, one of the five groups composing the FMLN, and has served as a clandestine radio operator.

Although the police could not confirm that the Bishop's brother was an FMLN militant, he was sent to jail charged with carrying forged documents and attempting to bribe the police. Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez has hinted that Salomon's arrest is due to political reasons because of the role the Catholic Church performs in the Salvadoran armed conflict.

Archbishop Rivera Y Damas Views Week's Events

PA1308172889 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1400 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Homily by Archbishop of San Salvador Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas at a mass held at the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A march has been organized for 15 August, which we have disapproved. It has been organized by an ecumenical group on the occasion of Msgr Romero's [former archbishop of San Salvador assassinated in March 1980] birthday. In that regard, we have sent a note to all priests and religious communities alerting them about initiatives conducted without the Archbishopric's approval.

Regarding other aspects of our national life, we share the optimism created by the results of the presidential summit in Tela, Honduras. The dialogue, which has been underestimated for years, finally seems possible, bringing real hopes for peace. We are encouraged by the climate of tolerance and understanding that has prevailed recently, together with the growing understanding that no social development plan can be successful unless the war ends. Let us put in the hands of the Prince of Peace the clamor from all the people who want to see the end of this horrible 10-year nightmare.

Among the positive steps taken during the past week, we must mention the efforts by leaders of the main opposition political parties. In the same manner as we have criticized them on other occasions, this time we are happy to congratulate them. We hope they will maintain their efforts, which already are showing their first results.

Regarding violent incidents during the past week, we regret the one in which four CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] security agents died on

the road to Nejapa. On previous occasions we expressed our support to workers who so laboriously and efficiently work to send electricity, a vital service, to Salvadoran homes.

We are also saddened by the death of Jose Angel Espinosa, a 65-year-old man, who was murdered within the premises of the [name indistinct] which is owned by the church, the Archbishopric's Office. According to investigations conducted by the church's Legal Assistance Office, there is reason to believe that the authors of this crime were uniformed soldiers. We hope the pertinent authorities will conduct a thorough investigation.

Legislative Assembly President's Home Attacked

PA1308195889 Paris AFP in Spanish 1932 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Aug (AFP)—The Salvadoran police have reported that the home of Ricardo Alvarenga, president of the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly, was attacked early this morning and that two security guards were injured.

The attack was carried out early this morning by unknown persons using automatic rifles. Alvarenga's home is located in the Santa Fe neighborhood, one of the main residential areas in the western sector of San Salvador.

The police said that the house was slightly damaged by the bullets fired from the automatic weapons used by the attackers who are believed to be guerrilla commandos.

This is the second attack by unidentified persons against a home owned by Alvarenga in 3 months. Alvarenga is a leader of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) that has been in power since 1 June.

In May, alleged guerrilla commands fired shots at another of Alveranga's homes located in Miramontes neighborhood, in the western part of the city. A security guard was killed during that attack.

Alvarenga, who has just ended an official trip to Taiwan, is currently visiting members of his family in Mexico.

Likewise, the police reported that this morning the rebels burned a city bus in north San Salvador. The rebels are repudiating the increase in bus fares decreed by the government in late July.

FMLN Bombs Electric Tower, Derails Train

PA1208174489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Urban commando units have planted and exploded an explosive device under an electric tower in the Central America neighborhood, in the Gabriela Mistral [word indistinct], across from house No 602. The explosion also set the wiring on fire. The FMLN urban commando units carried out this action at 0540 today. Francisco Benitez filed this report:

[Begin Benitez recording] A military report states that FMLN rebels in the past few hours sabotaged a FENADESAL [Salvadoran National Railroad] train at Piedra Tacha station, Usulutan Department. It adds that the guerrillas planted powerful explosives on the tracks, derailing a four-car train loaded with products that was traveling from this capital to San Miguel. A civilian report states that 3d Infantry Brigade units of San Miguel are guarding the train. [end recording]

Urban Guerrillas Sabotage Buses in Capital

PA1208175389 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Report by Alfredo Villareal—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Urban commandos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, burned another bus in the southern sector of the capital early this morning. The bus, which covered Route No 1, was burned by a young couple who identified themselves as members of the FMLN. The sabotage occurred in one of the streets of the densely populated San Jacinto neighborhood in this capital. According to the bus driver, the rebel action was carried out in retaliation for the increase in bus fares which was recently decreed to implement the government's new economic model.

[Unidentified man] "It happened at 0630. A young woman and a young man simply stood up, and the young man pressed his gun against me. He said to get the people out of the bus because it was going to be burned. The people panicked and quickly got out of the bus. The young couple later walked away calm as you please. This was simply a reaction to the increase in bus fares."

Two other buses have also been destroyed by the rebels' urban commandos in the last few hours, and three buses were destroyed earlier this week. On 8 August a bus covering Route No 30 was blown up at the Metropolis neighborhood. The guerrilla groups have announced these sabotage actions but did not say how long the rebel measure would be carried out. Meanwhile, the authorities are trying to counter these actions by implementing a new operation.

Clandestine Radio Stations Air Battle Reports

PA1208230589

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2300 GMT on 10 August airs a series of battle reports received from several Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] commands.

The first report was sent by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front and indicates that "a clash occurred with members of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Cerro Verde," adding that "the 4th Infantry Brigade has been operating in the zone in conjunction with members of the Bracamonte Battalion. The clash occurred on 8 August at 1400, as the enemy advanced from the town of La Laguna to Cerro Verde, and concluded 45 minutes later. We confirm that we caused one casualty on the enemy troops." The report adds that "at 1530, the same battalion clashed with our forces in the village of Cuevitas," but there are no reports on casualties.

The second report was sent by the Feliciano Ama Western Front, stating that "at 0745 on 6 August, FMLN snipers open fire on the civilian defense post in El Ahogado, Canton La Isla, Metapan Jurisdiction, Santa Ana Department." As a result of the attack, "one member of the paramilitary forces was killed."

The most recent report was sent by the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front and reveals that at 0600 on 10 August, guerrilla forces ambushed a military vehicle traveling from Ereguayquin to Usulutan." The ambush was carried out "near La Montanita, on the Coastal Highway" and the information adds that "four enemy casualties have been confirmed."

Report Recent Actions

PA1208230389

[Editorial Report] [Clandestine] Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 11 August carries approximately 6 minutes of reports on recent Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] actions.

The station first reports that on 10 August at 0500, FMLN urban guerrillas began maneuvers at various points in San Salvador. "The main action was the attack against paramilitary squads located at Mejicanos Municipal offices and garrison. Our units used rifle fire and RPG-7 rocket launchers to inflict casualties on the civilian defense death squad members and damage to the garrison and Mejicanos municipal offices. At the same time, other units carried out sabotage and propaganda actions in San Salvador."

The station adds that "at 1015, our urban guerrillas ambushed a National Guard vehicle in La Rabida neighborhood, killing one guard and wounding another. Following the deployment of urban guerrillas in San Salvador in broad daylight, various Air Force helicopters flew over the city. This refutes Colonel [Rene Emilio] Ponce's inconsistent statements saying he has broken up the FMLN in San Salvador."

Venceremos adds that on "7 August, the FMLN inflicted 10 casualties on the Army's 2d brigade using mines and snipers. The clashes began at 0900 and ended at approximately 1800. The skirmishes took place in Plan Galan and El Pinal, Metapan Jurisdiction."

In addition, on "6 August at 0745, a sniper attacked the paramilitary defense in La Isla, in the hamlet of El Ahogado, in Metapan, killing a civilian defense member." The station finally reports that "on 6 August at 1400, our units inflicted one casualty on the army at Majatepeque Hill, in Santa Ana. In San Agustin, also on 6 August, at 1800, Atonal Battalion sustained two casualties when ambushed by our units in El Corozo."

Armed Forces Casualties Reported

PA1308041689 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] We have reports from the Feliciano Ama Western Front and the Anastasio Aquino Para-Central Front:

The first report indicates that at 0745 on 6 August, snipers attacked the civilian defense post in the village of El Ahogado, Canton La Isla, Metapan Municipality. Our forces inflicted one enemy casualty. At 1330 that same day, enemy positions located in Cerro Majatepeque, Masahuat Jurisdiction, Santa Ana Department were attacked with rifle fire and they sustained another casualty.

On 7 August, our forces clashed with the (?2d) Infantry Brigade, which was carrying out an operation in northern Metapan. Following is the result of the clashes: At 0900 we inflicted two casualties, one with a mine and another by sniperfire near Finca El Pinal. Two more casualties were inflicted at 1025 near Plan Galan. We inflicted two more casualties at 1050, when we carried out an ambush with rifle fire at Puertas Negras. Two helicopters arrived at 1200; one was a transport helicopter and the other was a rocket launching helicopter. Our antiaircraft units opened fire [words indistinct] and one of the helicopters flew about the area for an hour and fired rockets at the site of the clash. At 1550, we inflicted a casualty with a mine at El Pinal Farm, and at 1630 we inflicted another casualty with a mine. By 1800, we had inflicted 10 enemy casualties, thus concluding this day of victorious combats.

Our combat continued on 8 August. Our forces clashed with a combined 2d Infantry Brigade and National Police patrol in the village of (?Las Marias), [name indistinct] Jurisdiction. [Words indistinct] at Finca Miramar, inflicting three more casualties on the 2d Infantry Brigade troops.

The clashes continued on 9 August: At 1600, our snipers attacked the 2d Infantry Brigade troops near Finca El Limon, and we inflicted one casualty. In sum, we have inflicted 16 casualties on the enemy (?in clashes) that occurred between 6 and 9 August.

Guatemala

Cerezo Says 'U.S. Agency' Discrediting Country

PA1208134489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2007 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo reported today that a "U.S. agency is" trying to get even with Guatemala over some past event by trying to get his government involved in drug trafficking and said that he will ask for help to fight back from his Mexican colleague Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

According to the Guatemalan president, this campaign is aimed at "discrediting the active neutrality" of the Christian Democracy administration.

Cerezo said that during his meeting with Salinas de Gortari on 18 August, one of the topics to be discussed will be the drug trafficking problem and how to counter an international campaign against Guatemala.

According to the president, the accusations that some of his government's officials are involved in drug trafficking are due to "some agency from the United States or some other country trying to get even on some old affair" with Guatemala.

"The discrediting of the country's international image is what is behind this, so that the government stops playing a balancing role in the area, which allows it to do something for peace and continue actions that favor the countries independence and autonomy," Cerezo said.

"Any government involved in drug trafficking cannot play a good role resolving the area problems, because it would not have the moral right to do so," the president said.

Cerezo added: "We will discuss this with Mexico, because it is a country that has an international influence to help us defend a struggle that has a political cost, due to a political attitude that someone is trying to get us to pay for."

Other topics that will be discussed by the presidents of Mexico and Guatemala are those related to the repatriation of Guatemalans in Mexican territory, ecological problems, and the illegal exploitation of lumber in the border area between the two coutries.

Likewise, credit formulas will be sought to export more to Mexico, "because the Mexican market potential is not being properly taken advantage of by Guatemala," Cerezo said.

Education Minister Gives Ultimatum to Teachers

PA1208162389 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 11 Aug 89 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Aug—Education Minister Ricardo Gomez Galvez today said that the teachers have until today [11 August] to call off their strike, according to the specific deadline established by the appropriate courts.

According to the 3-day deadline, he added, the teachers have to show up to work on 14 August. Whoever does not show up will be fired and the government will not be held responsible because it was decreed by the appropriate court, he warned.

Minister Gomez Galvez added that, nevertheless, he has no wish to fire anyone. He would not like to make such a critical decision because it would affect thousands of Guatemalan families.

He said that, given this, he hopes the teachers will realize the importance of a judicial ruling and abide by it—and be at their respective posts on 14 August. This is the only way he will not have to fire them.

Otherwise, he said, he will have to act according to the law, and he will have to fire the teachers who insist on maintaining their attitude, because it involves a court ruling that must be respected by everyone.

In an effort to favor the teachers and seek a solution—even though the strike has been decreed illegal—the education minister said that the government maintains its offer to the teachers with the same terms of the agreement reached with FENASTEG [National Federation of State Workers Union].

Referring to July, he added that despite the offer, the government maintains its decision not to pay whoever did not work that month.

Guerrilla Group Supports Strike

PA1308175989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1535 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), one of the three guerrilla groups operating in Guatemala, has expressed its support for the teachers who today entered their 10th week on strike to demand better wages.

In a communique published today in EL GRAFICO, the rebel organization calls on the parents to recognize the "correct attitude of the teachers who have been fighting to defend the rights of the poor."

Meanwhile, Melvin Pineda, leader of the National Teachers Association, said that the teachers have nothing to do with the statement issued by the ORPA because "we have always fought through the legal channels."

The ORPA also called on the progovernment teachers to support the demands being made by the teachers, stressing their effort in maintaining the strike up for almost 3 months.

The rebel group also accuses President Vinicio Cerezo of taking advantage of his position to get rich and has asked the parents who support the government to stop and think about the teacher's labor demands.

The ORPA, together with Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) and the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), comprise the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

Military Patrol Seizes 4 Mexican Fishing Boats

PA1308153089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1440 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan military patrol boats have detained four Mexican fishing boats that were fishing without authorization in Guatemalan Pacific Ocean waters.

Official sources have reported that the Guatemalan boats Azumache and Stella Maris were on patrol on the Pacific Ocean when they surprised the ships "Golfo Mexico I," "VI," "IX," and "XIX" when they were engaged in illegal activities. The sources reported that the crew of the Mexican boats has been identified as Alfonso Perez Dominguez, Porfirio Osorio Munoz, Roberto Mejia Chavez, Pablo Duran Perez, Miguel Getella Garcia, and Miguel Angel Sanabria.

According to the sources, the Mexicans were taken to Port Quetzal in southern Guatemala, and delivered to competent authorities.

Honduras

Azcona on Disarming Contras Prior to Return

PA1208230289 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2155 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Aug (REUTER)—President Jose Azcona said it will not be the responsibility of Honduras if the anti-Sandinist rebels based in his country return to Nicaragua armed, contrary to the Central American Tela summit agreement.

Azcona told the newspaper EL HERALDO that in accordance with the summit plan approved at the Honduran seaside resort of Tela, "The (contra) weapons should be handed over to the International Support and Verification Commission."

"However, if they do not want to turn these arms over and prefer to continue fighting from inside Nicaragua, we do not have the formula to resolve that problem," Azcona added.

The Central American presidents agreed at the summit to demobilize about 12,000 Nicaraguan guerrillas within 4 months, which was rejected by the anti-Sandinists, who said that they would move into the Nicaraguan mountains, armed.

Azcona said that Honduras will not allow the contras to remain armed within the territory of his country and become criminals.

"Let us be very clear. If contra rifles are aimed toward Honduras, at Honduran citizens, the contras will immediately be put in their place," Azcona said.

Joint Operations With El Salvador Planned

PA1208135489 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Aug 89 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Honduran and Salvadoran navies will conduct joint operations in the Gulf of Fonseca to prevent an alleged transfer of arms from Nicaragua to Salvadoran guerrillas.

Salvadoran Captain Humberto Villalta met with Honduran Navy officers yesterday. During his stay in Honduras, he will visit the centers for technical naval studies in Puerto Cortes.

Villalta, who is accompanied by Commanders Mario Argueta Franco and Salomon Quijada, said the purpose of his visit to Honduras is to "arrange for joint efforts to prevent both the transfer of arms from Nicaragua to Salvadoran guerrillas and drug trafficking."

He added: "No drug trafficking occurs in the Gulf of Fonseca at present, but, because Central America is a springboard for drug traffickers, we are watching the area and taking preventive measures. We have learned that three arms shipments have entered El Salvador, although we do not know the exact quantity of weapons. We know the guerrillas are receiving logistic support."

He also said contacts are being made with the Guatemalan Navy "for joint efforts against communists and drug traffickers. Given the close relations among the navies of the three countries, there are plans to create a naval academy in Central America because none of the Central American countries could support this academy by itself."

He added: "We could accomplish this by working together in the Central American spirit of union. We do not count for much if we are divided. Together, we could be respected in the international community."

He said Nicaragua could be included in the creation of this academy if it "initiates a true, sincere, and honest democratic process. Otherwise, this inclusion would become a problem because it is impossible to influence a Marxist-oriented country. This would destabilize the Central American unification plans."

Court Orders Arrest of Presumed Gunrunners

PA1208173989 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Report by Jorge Alberto Diaz Castillo]

[Text] Honduran Fourth District Lower Criminal Court has issued an arrest order for Victor Miguel Meza, Jose Martin Lopez, Manuel De Jesus Alvarado, Jose Oscar Rona Palacios, and Maria Luisa Ochoa Zelaya for the crime of terrorism against the Honduran state.

The aforementioned individuals were sent to the court on 4 August charged with arms smuggling and sale by the DNI [Department of National Investigations]. Mario Blanco Paniagua, judge of the Fourth District Lower Criminal Court, however, described the charges as a crime of terrorism.

The five individuals were arrested in various parts of the country approximately 18 days after the Honduran Police dismantled two caches containing 60 AK-47 rifles, 180 cartridge clips of 30 shots each, 61 Yataghans, and 50 backpack carriers at Cedros, Francisco Morazan. In addition, the authorities confiscated a yellow car with license plate number 100418 owned by Mauricio Ernesto Hernandez Rosales who was shot in the back during a confrontation with the police.

Since Judge Paniagua refused to say why he described the charges as a crime of terrorism, we went to the Fourth District Lower Criminal Court to talk with Mrs Ochoa Zelaya who said she refused to sign the arrest order, because her only crime was to be the concubine of the aforementioned deceased. Regarding this, Victor Miguel Meza said:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Why are you rejecting the arrest warrant issued against you today?
[Meza] Because this is an injustice against us. I believe that the political situation is being used to turn us into scapegoats. Nicaragua was accused at the recent presidential summit. We are part of that propaganda. I repeat, this is an attempt to make us scapegoats.

[Reporter] Warrants were also issued against your friends?
[Meza] That is correct, but none of us signed them because we categorically reject them.

[Reporter] What were you being charged with?
[Meza] They said that we have been charged with terrorism against the Honduran state. Assuming that this were true as they claim, I sincerely do not understand why they are charging us with terrorism against Honduras, because all the media have already reported that we transport weapons to El Salvador.

[Reporter] Does your record include a similar crime?
[Meza] No sir; as a civilian, I have worked within the space allowed by democracy, within cooperative and community organizations. I have sought the people's well-being.

[Reporter] Do you know the citizen who was killed in Cedros, Francisco Morazan?
[Meza] Yes, that is the only reason I am being accused—for knowing this man. I knew him because he was a wholesaler in the grocery business.

[Reporter] Do you know the other people involved in this alleged transshipment of weapons?
[Meza] I know none of them. I had never seen them before I learned that they were involved in this.

[Reporter] Do you know the mistress of the deceased?
[Meza] I do not know her either. My relationship with the deceased was strictly limited to business deals. I purchased plastic products from him because he dealt with all kinds of products. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Reaction to Tela Accord, Contra Demobilization

PSN's Tablada Praises Accord

PA1308031289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN] leader Dr Gustavo Tablada, one of the spokesmen of the self-styled 12-political party group UNO [National Opposition Union], said that the accords signed by the Central American presidents are satisfactory given the pledges they made—including the contras' demobilization.

Tablada participated twice as a delegate of the extreme-right coalition, UNO, in talks with the contra leadership—including former National Guard Colonel Enrique Bermudez—in Guatemala City. On each occasion they signed agreements that were later publicized in Nicaragua.

The PSN leader said that the important thing about the Tela accords is the political willingness stated by the signitory parties—which dealt the coup de grace to the contras, their former allies in Guatemala City. Asked what should be the U.S. Government's obligation, Tablada said it should respect the Central American countries' pledges.

Contras Demand Direct Dialogue

LD1108145989 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Tela agreements reached last Monday by the Central American presidents to dismantle the Nicaraguan contras are this morning once again at the forefront of international news coverage. A few hours ago Honduras announced that it is going to ask the United Nations to provide troops to be stationed along the border with Nicaragua, where the contras are situated, if the anti-Sandinist forces resist their demobilization. A report from Jose Manuel Martin Meden:

[Meden] The Honduran minister of the interior has said that the contras, with more than 10,000 armed men, cannot be controlled by the Honduran Army. The government spokesman added that if the contras do not leave their camps on Honduran territory, President Azcona will ask for the presence of UN forces. The warning from Tegucigalpa coincides with statements made to us by the spokesman for the contras, Bosco Matamoros, from Washington. According to Matamoros the contras are demanding a direct dialogue with the government of Nicaragua to work out the conditions for their demobilization and for the time being they are maintaining their readiness to continue the war, albeit without U.S. aid.

[Begin Matamoros recording] We are going to keep our forces together. Our units will remain in Nicaragua and we will maintain the cohesion of our forces in order to tackle Nicaragua's problems in direct negotiations between the resistance and the Sandinist Front. Nicaragua's problem is not one of demobilizing the resistance. Nicaragua's problem is the lack of democracy in our country. For some time now there has been some distance in our relationship with the United States. We have seen that they have their priority interests, their national interests, which they define in accordance with their interests. [sentence as heard] Our program does not envisage humanitarian aid from the United States. Essentially and fundamentally our plans envisage the continued presence of our forces inside Nicaragua—in different conditions. Naturally, this struggle will continue without U.S. aid until Ortega keeps his promise. We are inviting the Sandinist Front to a dialogue. [end recording] [passage omitted]

H. Ortega's Demobilization Orders

PA1108162489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Aug 89 pp 1,5

[Military Order No 1 issued by Defense Minister Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army—issued on 10 August]

[Text] Military Order No 1 A: To all Sandinist People's Army [EPS] units:

1. On 10 August, foreign news agencies reported from the United States that Israel Galeano Cornejo, alias Franklin, head of the counterrevolutionary forces' staff, along with other top counterrevolutionary leaders—including Pastor Meza alias Denis, Angel Sosa alias Emiliano, Osorno Coleman alias Blas, Jose Rostran alias Navegante, Luis Angel Lopez alias Leonel, Francisco Delgadillo alias Johny—requested political asylum before Mr Perry Rivkind, director of the Immigration and Naturalization Services in Miami, Florida.

In view of this request for political asylum filed by the counterrevolutionary Franklin and other contra leaders, the U.S. Government immediately expedited paperwork required to guarantee them special immigrant status.

2. This step taken by Franklin and other counterrevolutionary leaders, who for months have been legalizing their presence in the United States—as has been the case with Enrique Bermudez, former Somozist colonel and a top counterrevolutioaryn leader, and other members of the so-called counterrevolutionary directorate—has left counterrevolutionary units stationed in Honduran camps, especially units operating inside the country, virtually without leadership.

3. In view of this, I ORDER: To all EPS units that are participating in this campaign—with the support of the Interior Ministry—to convey to the counterrevolutionary units through various media the following message:

FIRST: That military security and civilian authorities of the Nicaraguan Government will offer all safety guarantees to all counterrevolutionaries willing to contact and meet with government authorities in the territories agreed upon to convey to them the accords signed by the five presidents in Tela, Honduras to achieve total peace that includes the demobilization of contra units in Honduras and Nicaragua.

SECOND: The constitutional government of Nicaragua will immediately proceed to reactivate peace commissions, which are made up of religious officials, humanitarian organizations, and other groups, to guarantee security in such meetings and comply with accords to demobilize units or members of the counterrevolution and fully incorporate them into the country's peaceful life with all the guarantees granted by the Republic of Nicaragua's political Constitution.

THIRD: All counterrevolution members or people indirectly linked to it through courier systems and other support activities, who accept the demobilization process inside Nicaragua under the supervision of peace commissions acting as guarantors, will be given—besides amnesty—constitutional rights afforded to all Nicaraguan citizens and benefits specified in the accords signed by the five presidents in Tela, Honduras for the demobilization of counterrevolutionary forces.

FOURTH: The EPS will guarantee to all counterrevolutionary units and their support personnel, who prefer to be demobilized in Honduran camps, all the help needed for their transportation to bases in Honduran territory. The demobilization in Honduran counterrevolutionary camps will enjoy the guarantees of the UN and OAS secretaries general who are members of the International Support and Follow-Up Commission [CIAV] in keeping with mandates contained in the accords signed by the five Central American presidents for the demobilization of the counterrevolution's forces and support personnel. Besides amnesty, these people will also enjoy the benefits specified by the Republic's Constitution and other benefits afforded them by the Tela accords. The counterrevolution will turn over its weapons to the CIAV.

Finally, I urge all EPS troops and Interior Ministry combatants to continue implementing with a high sense of responsibility and discipline all these steps leading toward the demobilization of the counterrevolution while maintaining at all times—besides the firm determination to repel provocateurs with all our might—the just recognition of all counterrevolutionaries who participate in the demobilization for the sake of the total peace that our people are demanding to reconcile the Nicaraguan family and reconstruct our fatherland, which has been torn apart by the cruel and unjust war imposed on us by Ronald Reagan's warmongering policy.

With the conviction that we will achieve total peace, all our combatants must be on alert to forcefully repel all attacks that our people continue to endure, because of the terrorist actions of certain counterrevolutionary groups. We must also always be on alert to contain any plots coming from warmongering forces abroad.

[Signed] Defense Minister Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra, EPS commander in chief

Former Contra Leader Comments

PA1108152789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1315 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Azucena Ferrey, former member of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate, said on 11 August that the contras were captured in Guatemala, tried in El Salvador, sentenced at the summit in Honduras, and will be executed in the United States.

Ferrey, who returned to Nicaragua 2 months ago to join her country's political struggle, said in Miami that the RN fighters must conduct a "voluntary retreat" with their relatives to the United States.

She added that a retreat to the United States would include the departure of some 60,000 people and that the Central American presidents and armies, the Red Cross, and human rights organizations must cooperate in this activity.

The contra leader made these statements just 4 days after the Central American presidents approved in Honduras a plan for the demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of the anti-Sandinist rebels stationed in eastern Honduras.

Ferrey said that the RN fighters are a "triumphant army that is honored by its people in exile and cherished by its people held hostage inside the national territory."

Ferrey said that if the contras retreat in an orderly manner, the George Bush administration would have to receive the weapons that the United States provided, "but which were limited to prevent the Nicaraguan people from winning a victory over the Sandinist dictatorship."

According to Ferrey, the retreat would open the doors so that "in a short time other citizens will be the ones who will get killed in a fight for their country."

Ferrey believes that the contras should at least be allowed to remain "with all the necessary guarantees" in Honduran camps until the new Nicaraguan Government elected on 25 February 1990 takes over.

Azucena Ferrey said the RN should remain alert and that the Central American presidents come back and reconsider their decisions regarding the demobilization of the estimated 13,000 contras who operate in eastern Honduras.

Contras Must Enter 'Unarmed'

PA1208131089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official has warned that the demobilized contras must enter the country unarmed. Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry Official Manuel Cordero stated that the contras who want to return to the country must first pass through the demobilization process according to the Tela agreements. Cordero noted that these agreements stipulate that for contras to reenter the country, be relocated, and receive land and tools to work they have to be unarmed.

[Begin Cordero recording] The orders given by Defense Minster General Humberto Ortega are aimed at easing the repatriation of the contra forces that are demobilizing and to ensure their security. These measures follow the stipulations included in the Esquipulas and Tela agreements.

[Reporter] How can you guarantee this? The contras' command staff has taken asylum in the United States. Have they given up their weapons or did they take the weapons with them while they remain in the United States?

[Cordero] I do not know the details in this case. However, my impression is that they are to take asylum without weapons. The Tela agreements indicate that prior to repatriation there has to be a demobilization. The contras will not enter Nicaragua with weapons. They have to give up their weapons first and then they enter Nicaragua. Furthermore, according to the agreement, the Nicaraguan Government, together with international organizations headed by the UN and OAS secretary generals, are to obtain financing that will allow the demobilized contras returning to the country to receive land and tools. [end recording]

'Disorderly Flight' of Contras Noted

PA1308125889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Aug 89 p 3

[Article by Guillermo Cortes Dominguez]

[Text] "I will not take the rap" [part of a popular song] the U.S. Government seems to be vigorously saying, faced with the contra's disorderly flight, which started only 48 hours ago following the signing of the Tela agreement, with the request for political asylum in Miami by most of the general staff of the battered counterrevolutionary army.

Immigration officials immediately granted asylum to three of the nine requestors, including Major Israel Galeano Cornejo, alias "Franklin," who acted as head of the general staff.

That, however, was not a decision made by Perry Rivkind, head of the District of Miami's Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Instead, it was made at the highest level of the Bush administration. If the request of the other leaders has been turned down by INS, then the intermediate leaders and the troops must now be certain they will not be received either.

It must be tragic for the contras that those who created, organized, and financed them do not want to know them, turning a deaf ear to their sorrowful cries, and even turning their backs on them.

That same line has been followed by the Central American governments, which in times of contra "glory" enthusiastically backed them. This was the case of Honduras and El Salvador, and at a third level, Costa Rica.

Now none of those countries want to receive the contras. The Hondurans, who put up with them for so many years, even at the cost of their sovereignty and heavy damage to the economy of coffee growers and cattle ranchers, are sick of them.

That is why the Tela agreements establish that repatriation and relocation are not parallel options. Instead, the first is a priority; the second is only applicable under extreme circumstances.

Militarily buried since 2 years ago, the contras seem like a corpse too foul for their old Washington friends and their Central American accomplices. Arias, Cristiani, and Azcona were categorical.

It is just as well that the Nicaraguan Government and the great working masses are willing to accept the return of the contras, so that they demobilize and rejoin a peaceful way of life. There is a resolve, at least at a military level, to make a last sacrifice so the war does not continue.

Most probably the leaders will not return. For example, it is impossible to imagine Colonel Bermudez returning. Others, aware of the blood that stains them, will also avoid returning. The United States should take charge of all of them.

One of the few contra leaders who still remain in Honduras yesterday made a plea so that Bush, for humanitarian reasons, should ensure that the United States take care of the war crippled.

Bush is not only saying "I will not take the rap," but also, "Let the culprit take the rap." And indeed, it is the Nicaraguan people who are the culprits who caused the contras death, but at a very high cost. It is just as well that there is sufficient moral reserve to take in the leftover contras who flee in disarray.

Oh, I was forgetting! There are other contra friends who now do not want to know anything about them—the "civic contras" who operate politically in Nicaragua, especially in Managua.

Now they will not want witnesses to the times when they hurled all the praise at the "freedom fighters." They wish with all the anguish of their curled-up hands that they had never signed that Guatemala document where they submissively give Col Bermudez and company the incredible role of guarantor of the Nicaraguan democratic process.

Now they all say I will not take the rap.

Military To Ease Demobilization

PA1208193489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Aug 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] Juigalpa and Esteli—Regional military commanders of areas with ongoing war activity spent 11 August meeting with subordinates to facilitate the contras' demobilization in keeping with the defense minister's most recent order.

In the departments of Esteli, Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Boaco, and Chontales, and in Nueva Guinea, regional staff members instructed military unit commanders, in coordination with municipal governments, to contact peace commission members.

Peace will be harder to achieve in the 5th Region, where small contra groups totaling about 900 people are operating, because in the past few months the guardsmen have killed 55 civilians, kidnapped 100, and carried out 125 actions against its residents.

However, Lieutenant Colonel Cesar Delgadillo, the chief of staff, said: "Some groups are in the process of laying down their arms" in areas north of Rama and Muelle de los Bueyes.

The 1st Region faces a more complex situation because it borders the Honduran area that houses contra camps. Military units posted in traditional entrance points have been instructed to ease the entrance of contras coming from camps in Honduras to demobilize.

Major Daniel Pozo Hernandez, the 1st Region's chief of staff, said that peace commissions are being contacted; in fact, those in Quilali and Jalapa have already scheduled meetings for the next few hours.

Some 150 or 200 counterrevolutionaries are scattered throughout the region in small groups trying to convince the peasants not to vote for the Sandinist National Liberation Front, but they are in hiding most of the time to avoid clashes with Sandinist troops.

All military units in the region are ready to respond to any attempt on the part of the contras to contact them, Maj Pozo added.

Many unit commanders met with counterrevolutionaries after the Sapoa Accord of March 1988 and it is expected that this experience will help expedite future meetings.

"We are currently on the lookout for any signal from those groups; however, as soon as we believe they have learned about this, we will try to contact them. Of course, we would take the necessary security measures. We would take the initiative at that point," he added.

They Are Fleeing From Yamales

The number of people who laid down their arms in July increased in the 1st Region. Four contras from camps in Yamales, Honduras turned themselves in on a single day.

They entered through an abandoned coffee farm at the border area of Namasli after escaping from a camp where they had been held.

Pozo said that because of the proximity of contra camps to the 1st Region, he is expecting the arrival of several contra groups wishing to demobilize in the next few days.

That is why the military units in the most important traditional entrance points, including Namasli, Murupuchi, Teotecacinte, El Guapinol, El Saltito, and Cano La Leona, were specifically instructed to facilitate the entrance of the contras into national territory.

El Espino and Las Manos

The military leader said that demobilization can also take place at the two legal border posts of El Espino and Las Manos.

Meanwhile, Lt Col Delgadillo reported that 359 counterrevolutionaries have laid down their arms so far this year. In view of frequent contra terrorist actions, military leaders decided to make all contacts through the peace commissions.

In this region the contras have not honored the cease-fire and several leaders, including "Mama Moncha," "Azogue," "Ramiro," "Capulina," "Minita," "Cafe Negro," and "El Toro," are promoting the murder and kidnapping of peasants.

All military units in the 6th Region have been instructed to faciliate the demobilization of contras. However, neither regional commander Colonel Manuel Salvatierra nor his chief of staff could be reached yesterday for comment. Apparently, the two military men were visiting certain military units to directly convey the defense minister's order.

Ortega To Release 900 'Contras'

PA1308165789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1550 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 13 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has announced that 900 peasants, accused of being "contras," will be released on 15 August. An official source disclosed this information today.

Ortega expressed his government's willingness to release the peasants last night during a meeting with 58 U.S. citizens, members of the "Pastors for Peace" movement, who collected donations in the United States to help Nicaragua.

The UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] has also asked for the release of 300 other peasants in the northern departments of Nueva Segovia, Esteli, Madriz, Jinotega, and Matagalpa.

On 4 August the Sandinist government and the 18 political parties, including the 14 parties that comprise the National Opposition Union (UNO), signed an electoral agreement that includes the granting of a general amnesty prior to the implementation of the plan for the demobilization of the contras now in Honduras.

In his announcement, the Sandinist president did not mention this part of the political agreement between his administration and the opposition.

According to the opposition, there are more than 6,000 political prisoners in Nicaragua; however, the Sandinist government calculates that there are approximately 2,000.

According to the official sources, the 58 U.S. clergymen traveled to Nicaragua by land to deliver to President Ortega 26 vehicles and tools worth $1 million.

Editorial on New Phase of Revolution Published

PA1408003289 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 12 Aug 89 pp 1, 8

[Editorial by Danilo Aguirre S.: "One Phase Ends and Another Begins in the Revolution"]

[Text] The latest developments—dialogue, Tela [presidential summit], the disbanding of the contras—comprise the end of one phase and the beginning of a new one in the Nicaraguan revolution 10 years after an aged and repressive regime was overthrown.

Beyond the nonsense of those who prefer to isolate themselves behind antihistorical positions—Bush, LA PRENSA, national and international ultrarightists—this is the time to conduct a level-headed analysis to build a future consonant with the foundations laid at the closing of this phase of the revolution.

The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] ought to be satisfied, because even during the most dramatic moments of national defense, it resisted the temptation of totalitarianism.

The FSLN should also admit that the lack of real revolutionaries in the gigantic task of carrying out our national reconstruction and transforming Nicaraguan society over the 10 years resulted in grave detractions from the historical plan and seriously affected the goodness and mysticism of this plan.

The FSLN should also admit that the Nicaraguan people's just and legitimate demands to achieve their main goals were not always responded to with the scientific objectivity of economic laws.

In addition, the FSLN should feel proud for having conducted the Nicaraguan people in a military, civic, and diplomatic struggle toward an unquestionable victory against the most barbaric and cruel aggression that any powerful nation has ever unleashed against a Latin American country.

This victory was even more meritorious because it was achieved amid the worst economic crisis on this subcontinent and while having to face the unavoidable imbalances that result in a revolutionary process as the ownership and production of goods and services is transformed.

Meanwhile, sectors opposed to the Revolution and even those that are only against the FSLN's leadership, or those that have simply tried to disrupt or freeze the process, have probably learned important lessons during the phase that has just ended.

First, they must know that it was a gross error not to recognize the difference between a simple change of government and a revolution, which is equivalent to not properly assessing the inevitable identification and interaction between the government and the party and army that achieved the revolution's victory.

Second, they should know that certain segments of the population have fared even worse for having clung to the hope of seeing the revolution defeated by the might and arrogance of an intervening power and for confusing the high degree of dependence and submission among them with the endless defensive potential and pride of a victorious people who own the nation's resources.

Third, their institutional demands did not necessarily leave out the revolution, because the process could be advanced and consolidated in the presence of liberty and democracy.

Fourth, a revolution based on standards that were established, could easily stand as an example of genuine liberty as opposed to the old schemes of fictitious Central American democracies.

Fifth, if the government on many occasions appeared to hesitate toward the true meaning of a mixed economy, it is no less true that the business sector's leadership has always confused that project with and viewed it as a possibility of recovering power by establishing a super structure [superestructuralmente] instead of through the patriotic role of finding ways to adjust creatively and patriotically to the new order.

Today, honest elections are being organized and genuinely democratic institutions are being consolidated as total peace is forseen. No one should feel the bitterness of feeling defeated or the euphoria of feeling victorious.

The economic sacrifices the Nicaraguan people have made demand that we all assume roles that history has finally given of working together to provide to Nicaragua's poor the health, education, housing, and well-being for which they have shed sweat and blood for more than 150 years.

Spanish Unions, Political Parties Send Aid

PA1308221689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Summary] Spanish labor unions and political parties have sent two ships loaded with 4,000 pounds of wheat, more than 200,000 pounds of other food, several tons of agricultural tools, and school material for the Nicaraguan people. The first ship arrived on 3 August and the second ship is expected to arrive on 14 August.

Spain Reduces Nation's Debt by One-Third

PA1308235989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Miguel Angel Fernandez-Mazarambroz, Spanish ambassador to Nicaragua, has announced that the Nicaraguan debt with the Spanish Government has been reduced by one-third. One-third of the debt was forgiven and the rest has been renegotiated at a very low interest rate. This represents the best conditions of payment granted by Spain to any Third World or Latin American country. The Spanish ambassador said that his country feels that the best way to solve the serious foreign debt problem is through renegotiation.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez-Mazarambroz] Therefore, Nicaragua will be paying hardly anything over the next 5 years and the accumulated debt has been renegotiated at a very low interest rate. I can tell you that these are the best conditions Spain has ever given a country.

[Reporter] Why this preferential treatment toward Nicaragua?

[Fernandez-Mazarambroz] Because it is obvious that Nicaragua is a Latin American country where we feel at home—which is important—and for many other reasons of which you are quite aware, mainly the war Nicaragua has been experiencing. Nicaragua's economic situation is not good. Furthermore, this is part of Spain's feeling concerning foreign debt, especially Latin America's foreign debt. We must use our imagination and choose a solution that includes a partial cancellation of the debt. We have done this with Nicaragua and feel that the major creditors should do the same; otherwise, the debt will be unpayable. [end recording]

Charges To Be Filed Against Opposition Member

PA1108200689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Independent Liberal Party [PLI] leaders will file charges against Virgilio Godoy next week. The members of the PLI faction, which opposes the outrages committed by Godoy, are waiting for Dr Juan Manuel Gutierrez to return to the country to file charges against Godoy in the courts.

Dr Gutierrez, who is president of the Social Investigation Reserch Center of the PLI, will return to the country from Canada next week. Dr Gutierrez told the members of the Social Investigation Research Center that Godoy has refused four times to show up to explain what was done with the millions of dollars he received as donations from the (Friederich Newmann) Foundation and from other European liberal parties; therefore charges will be filed against him at the courts.

Joaquin Mejia, PLI leader and a Godoy critic, said Godoy is arrogant because he has refused to report to the organization on the whereabouts of thousands of dollars that belong to the PLI Social Investigation Research Center.

Panama

Noriega Closes 'Oust the Intruder' Operation

PA1108195289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, to conclude the "Oust the Intruder" Operation and to commemorate "the 6th anniversary of Noriega holding the post of FDP commander" at the Revolucion Stadium in Panama City—live]

[Text] His Excellency Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, distinguished military attaches accredited to Panama and diplomats present here, distinguished comrades in arms of the OMIDELAC [Organization of Military Officers for the Democracy, Integration, and Freedom of Latin America and The Caribbean], magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice and of the Electoral Tribunal, honorable Panamanian parliamentarians, honorable representatives of the peoples power, distinguished Dignity Battalion members, distinguished ASEFUDEP [Associations of Wives of FDP Members] members and comrades, [applause], friends, and brothers:

On this historic day on which we are closer to our people than ever, very significant FDP events are taking place, including the celebration of the 6th anniversary of our post as FDP commander, the anniversary of the creation of Battalion 2000, and the successful conclusion of the "Oust the Intruder" maneuver. [crowd shouts: "They sure as hell will leave."]

The "Oust the Intruder" maneuver was conducted throughout the entire country for 10 days. The maneuvers included intelligence and operational, tactical operations that demonstrated Panamanian soldiers' ability, courage, morality, determination, will of struggle, professionalism, and conviction. The maneuvers neither harmed the civilian population nor bothered Panamanian children.

We must also note the spontaneous, disinterested, exemplary, and militant participation of the civilian patriots who are part of the Dignity Battalions. [applause]

Aware of what was to come, in December 1985 we said no to a U.S. admiral who wanted Panama to be the spearhead of the struggle against Nicaragua. [applause]

On that occasion we said that the establishment [preceding word in English] was panicking, because the irreversible process of the decolonization of Panamanian territory, which will change the course of U.S. control over international trade [4-second break in reception] beginning with the appointment of the Panamanian canal administrator.

When that time comes, there will never be any more entries in the account books that could be used to cover expenditures caused by the dirty wars or the Irangate scandals promoted against Latin American nations. [applause] From that time on, the U.S. expansionist behavior will have to strictly comply with the treaties and with Panamanian laws until noon on 31 December 1999. Not one more day! Not one more day! [crowd shouts: "Not one more day"] [applause]

In view of the insolence, arbitrariness, brutal meddling, insults, humiliations, and calumnies of those who invoke God from a satanical pulpit and who also invoke democracy to justify the use of force as an instrument of their policy, Panamanians are facing two alternatives: We either become a colony and accept arrogance, vassalage, and indignity [crowd shouts indistinct slogan] and hold a plebiscite to decide whether we want to be a colony or keep our dignity. That is the plebiscite for the Panamanian people. There is no other, there is no other, and there will be no other plebiscite. [crowd shouts: Dignity]. If they win that plebiscite, they can be the governors of the colony. [crowd shouts: They will never pass, we will win.]

We either become a colony and accept arrogance, vassalage, and indignity—and become another star of the foreign flag that is humiliating us as General Torrijos said—or a free, sovereign, and independent nation that is proud of its past and dignified enough to build its own future without imperialist meddling.

There are some people who are claiming with vulgar irreverence that one cannot satisfy hunger with sovereignty. They are the piranhas of history and of dignity. If Washington, Bolivar, San Martin, Sucre, Hidalgo, Juarez, and Marti—all of these from the American continent—De Gaulle from the immortal France, Tito of Yugoslavia, Kemal Ataturk of Turkey, (Omar Mukar) of Libya, Sun Yat-sen and Mao Zedong of age-old China, Mahatma Gandhi the pacifist, Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir of Israel, Colonel Al-Nasir of Egypt, who nationalized the Suez Canal, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Lenin of USSR, Amilcar Cabral of Guinea Bissau, Nelson Mandela of the South African ghetto, had sought their inspiration and based their actions on this sophism, the free peoples of America and the world would not exist. [applause, slogans]

Latin American military leaders also fought during their time with dignity to bring a better future for their fatherlands. They include Juan Domingo Peron and Juan Velasco Alvarado, to mention just two foreigners; and in Panama, Remon and Torrijos. This is the history that was erased from our classrooms and from Panama pedagogy. This is not taught as an example for our youths since Torrijos' education reform, which was falsely accused of being Communist and Marxist, was guillotined in 1980; in fact, without even allowing its idealogues to defend it.

They also do not teach the generational struggle to decolonize and the fact that the assassination of President Jose Antonio Remon Cantera in 1951 was plotted from the moment he coined the phrase: We want neither millions nor alms, we want justice. They do not teach about the assassination of General Omar Torrijos Herrera, who was condemned when he coined the phrase: We are always standing, never on our knees. [applause; crowd shouts: Omar]

School textbooks also do not mention the massacre of the 22 nationalist martyrs of 1964.

No one here teaches in the classrooms about the 1925 rent riots, their origin, their profound social roots. No one teaches about General Pedro Prestan's courage, or about Ecuadoran General Eloy Alfaro, his historical friend in the struggle for Panama's independence, who later became the first Liberal president in that South American sister nation.

This is not an FDP struggle. Our generation and previous ones did not learn about nationalism in the classrooms or academies, but in Panama's streets. They learned about it at the National Institute, from yesterday's dignified and exemplary teachers; they learned about it at the Professional School, at the Santiago Normal School, at the Justo Arosemena, Abel Bravo, and Felix Olivares Institutes. In those schools, those foremen of education, anonymous today, identified youth under one social destiny. They knew then that peasant students, and students in urban areas who lived in Renta Cinco, Patio Pinel, Vista Hermosa, the Penonome Building, and in the slums near the market and the embankment [of the Panama Bay] did not have a bright future, because access to public posts was monopolized by the ruling oligarchy. They did not have the opportunities they have today through the IFARHU [Human Resources Education and Training Institute]. [applause] They did not have access to patriotic history textbooks, because our education ministers, our Education Ministry

experts were full of complexes. They created a specialized and select commission to prepare textbooks in their own image and reflecting their colonialist destiny. They did not want our youth to face the gringos!

Men and youths graduated in the past and have continued to graduate in the past few years in our country without the principles of Jose Daniel Crespo, Nicolas Victoria Jaen, of Jephta B. Duncan, Octavio Mendez Pereira, Jose Dolores Moscote, Mateo Iturralde, Abel Bravo, Felix Olivares, Sara Sotillo, Federico Velasquez, Ernesto Castillero—both father and son—and so many other illustrious teachers.

It is my duty to mention this to you today, because you are the basic platform upholding this nationalist people's power. It is this very power that is being yearned for and sought—to misuse, traffic with, and to use it to obtain things and as a means for blackmail—by those who were dislodged from the Palace of the Herons [Presidency] after having used, abused, and misused it for 65 years. Since 1903, that same oligarchy has imposed, maintained, and nourished its own commanders. [applause]

I am not and could never be the commander of any president representing the oligarchy that is subjugating the Panamanian people. No one will ever find me in that position. I would never be a commander under such conditions. [applause].

Therefore, today the FDP reaffirms the concept and oath that the struggle for liberation against neocolonialism does not have name, surname, or rank. This struggle belongs to the Panamanian people and dignified men, because dignity and the desire for liberty are not transplanted, they are born with! [applause]

From now until the year 1999, Panamanian presidents will have to be of the character and firmness of Manuel Solis Palma, who has already set a precedent in the history of Panamanian dignity. [applause] They cannot be gringo followers or gringo lovers, cannot lack patriotism, and cannot live or nourish themselves with the satisfaction of having flirted over the telephone or received a pat on the back like a master gives his slave. They cannot cavort like a dolphin who has just been given a sardine from his trainer after a performance at sea world. [applause] Presidents must be very aware that they are Panamanians. They must feel like Panamanians and behave like Panamanians. They must not take orders from any foreign superpower.

Today, I am bringing you a message in this statement. As commander of the FDP—a different armed forces formed in the image and likeness of the Panamanian people and society, of which I am very proud— I believe, and I thank the Lord and my deceased parents for this, that I have received more than I deserve. I believe that God has been generous and merciful with this man. He is my shepherd, and only his plans will decide my fate. This harmony, these blessings, and this strong moral support will not be a fleeting gesture, because it comes from and extends from the spiritual qualities, innocence, humility, and vast magnetic and dynamic capabilities of these troops and these officers who spring from the very soil that is the origin and essence of the Panamanian people. [applause]

After the Lord, I will only bow—as a sign of reverence and respect—before these troops, because I have been with them in the mountains and shared their hunger, by the rivers and shivered with them in the cold, in the fields and endured their hardships, at their sides in times of sadness and felt their grief and in time of happiness and shared their cheap rum. I, their commander, have been alongside them during the most difficult and courageous missions following orders from other commanders. I have accomplished decisive and courageous missions in our territory and beyond our borders. I have participated in missions involving our sovereignty, but never, ever, have I squatted or cowered in fear. [applause] This commander never thought of, worked for, aspired to, had the name, or lobbied to reach the position he holds today. He had other aspirations, other desires. However, this was his fate, and he will continue to fulfill the mission he has been entrusted with, alongside his comrades in arms in the Joint Chiefs of Staff, always bearing in mind that life is like a rolling wheel that follows a sequence in which we in the military include the doctrine of generational succession. We will always say as [General Jose de] San Martin: I gave my childhood to my parents and my youth to the fatherland, but I will keep my old age for myself.

I want to conclude by reaffirming an invariable, categorical, and undeniable dictum: This people has a name—Panamanians. Panama never had, does not have, nor will it ever have or accept surnames, ranks, foreign powers, imposed actions, humiliations, or outrages, regardless of where they come from and regardless of their nature, because we do not suffer from the slave complex. We live with the example of [Indian leaders] Bayano and Felipillo. Today, with that blood that contains the complaints of the Indians, the cry of the black man and the stubbornness of the Spaniard, we tell them that here in this territory we only accept a single flag. [crowd shouts: "A single territory!"] [applause] We have already erased from our military close-order drill the order: One step backward. Thank you.

Noriega Makes Remarks at OMIDELAC Meeting

PA1108160389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1125 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Report on statement by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces , at the closing session of the meeting of the Organization of Military Officers for Democracy, Integration, and Freedom of Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City on 10 August]

[Text] Closing the meeting of the Organization of Military Officers for the Democracy, Integration, and Freedom of Latin America and the Caribbean

[OMIDELAC], General Manuel Antonio Noriega noted that the military leaders attending this meeting have made history in their respective countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. They are now discussing Panama's destiny, which is part of Bolivar's dream for the integration of Latin America and the world. Today in Panama, the OMIDELAC—an organization of the military leaders who remember the democratic principles of their youth—have become a body of analysts of Panama's drama.

[Begin Noriega recording] You have witnessed the U.S. aggressive and arrogant policy in Panama. What does the United States seek here? They want to keep a territory that does not belong to them, because of the geographic value of this territory from which they control, using modern technology, the lives and destiny of Latin American and the Caribbean peoples.

Panama, which learned about liberty in the battlefields side by side with Bolivar and [General Antonio Jose de] Sucre, will not be subdued, will not be humiliated, and will not abandon its liberation struggle despite the unjustice or the arrogance.

Panama will not bow to the use of force which the barbarians in the north want to exert on us, or before the U.S. lackeys and submissive politicians who prefer to exchange the Presidency of their countries and surrender the dignity and honor of their nations. They are willing to live with no fatherland and on their knees. [end recording]

Finally, General Noriega respectfully requested OMIDELAC members, as witnesses, to convey to their respective countries and to the world the message that here in Panama they found an FDP determined to resist the colonialist aggression for as long as necessary, and that there is no sign of hesitation among the chiefs, officers, rank and file, and the people organized in the Dignity Battalions.

Reporter Assesses Noriega's 'Strengthened' Power
PA1208145789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1400 GMT 11 Aug 89

[By Andreu Claret]

[Text] Panama City, 11 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—On the eve of his 6th year as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] on 12 August, General Manuel Antonio Noriega has ended an extensive reorganization process of his general staff and, according to observers, he has strengthened his power over the military institution.

In addition to other recent military changes, the retirement in the last few weeks of two colonels and three lieutenant colonels and the promotion of four officers to the general staff entail a complete change in this organization since the Panamanian political crisis began 2 years ago.

Only seven of the 19 officers—colonels and lieutenant colonels—who composed the General Staff when the crisis broke out in June 1987 are still part of the organization, according to information provided to ACAN-EFE by the FDP.

The rest were retired according to "Law 20," which regulates changes made in the military. Some of them were retired following an unsuccessful coup attempt against Noriega in March 1988, which led to the imprisonment of a colonel and 17 officers and the exile of a lieutenant colonel.

Twelve of the 20 officers who are members of the current General Staff were promoted to that position over the last 1 and ½ years during the heat of the confrontation with the United States, whose administration demands the withdrawal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega as commander in chief of the FDP and as the country's stongman.

Military attaches in Panama are asking themselves about the extent of the latest changes, which were made in times of a serious political crisis in the country and which were made prior to Noriega's 6th year as commander in chief of the FDP and 27th as member of the institution.

Just as it happened last year, there is much speculation surrounding this date on the hypothetical resignation of the general. According to "Law 20," officers are allowed to retire "after 25 years of continuous service."

Those who believe the general may announce his retirement point out that the latest changes were made to leave men he trusts at the head of the institution.

Most analysts believe, however, that the changes were made to favor Noriega's permanence in power during a period in which they will have "to be tolerant and wait for the confusion to end," as an FDP officer recently said during a seminar on "low intensity war."

These observers also believe that Noriega's retirement is "unthinkable" in these times when he and the FDP have been subjected to growing military pressure by the U.S. Army South, stationed on the banks of the Panama Canal.

A European diplomat who has many friends among the FDP officers expressed doubt that the U.S. military maneuvers and the daily "humiliations" the Panamanian people are subjected to will divide the general staff and lead to a confrontation with Noriega. He said the U.S. actions may even "have the opposite effect."

A Latin American military attache described the scope of the changes within the Panamanian military hierarchy as "incredible." He said that he knows of no other case where "such rapid changes have taken place among the ranking officers" of a Latin American army during peace time.

Noriega's adversaries insist that most of the promotions and retirements are an effort to hasten the removal of officers with more "traditional" training, in whom Noriega has less confidence, and to promote newer officers who are in debt to Noriega for their careers.

Captain Lim Yueng, FDP public relations chief, insisted to ACAN-EFE that "everything has been done in accordance with 'Law 20;'" the promotions were granted on the basis of length of time in a position and "merits earned."

Nevertheless, the law states that in addition to seniority and merit, promotions must also meet "other requirements established by the general command" (Noriega).

To this effect, analysts point out that promotions went to five officers of the Military Strategic Command (CEM), a consultative body that has considerable influence over "political-military" decisions, which was created after the 1988 coup attempt and formed by radical officers trusted by Noriega.

The changes the military command has undergone over these past 2 years have led many commentators, even the regime's adveraries, to dismiss the immediate possibility of a military coup against Noriega.

General Marc Cisneros, chief of the U.S. Army South, recently told ACAN-EFE that the possibility of a coup is "very vague," and attributed Noriega's security to his "removal of colonels from the scene through direct contact with majors and captains."

One of the general's civilian collaborators admitted that Noriega maintains "very close relations with the captains who head the troops," whom he visits often in their headquarters, but he denied that this has undermined his relationship with colonels and lieutenant colonels.

Most of the 15,000 troops in the FDP—according to official figures—are distributed in approximately 12 battalions, companies, and special units, almost all of which are headed by captains who are considered more "radical" in their anti-American convictions than the ranking officers.

On the contrary, the officers in the general staff are more involved in departments and agencies and do not maintain direct contact with the troops.

Foreign Minister Wants UN Mission Sent

PA1108215889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2033 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] United Nations, 11 Aug (EFE)—Panama's foreign minister today asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to send a UN mission to Panama to verify the situation so that urgent measures can be adopted to reduce tensions with the United States.

"I really believe there is going to be a confrontation within a few days," between the civilian population and the U.S. forces stationed in the Canal Zone, Jorge Eduardo Ritter said at a news conference after speaking at the UN Security Council.

Ritter explained that he had requested a Security Council meeting to report on the consequences of the humiliation and harassment inflicted on the Panamanian people, who "have reached the limit of their patience."

Ritter explained that the request for a UN mission will not interfere with the mission of OAS foreign ministers, because the OAS mission is assisting Panama's political forces in their effort to achieve a national agreement.

"Regional peace and security are in jeopardy and demand action by the Security Council," Ritter reiterated, adding that the U.S. Government finds it necessary to display its strength in a Latin American country to satisfy the American public.

Addresses UN Security Council

PA1208030189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter address to the UN Security Council in New York City on 11 August—recorded]

[Text] Mr President, first of all, allow me to state my country's and the Panamanian delegation's satisfaction at seeing you presiding over the Security Council. Your well-known talent as a diplomat augurs well for this month's Security Council sessions, and, personally speaking, Panama wishes to state this because of the friendship your country has shown for mine and because of the role you play and have always played in promoting the causes of Third World countries and peoples.

Mr President, during the 28 April 1989 UN Security Council session, which was convened at the request of the Republic of Panama, I reported the grave dangers to peace for my country and the region resulting from the flagrant intervention of the United States in the internal affairs of Panama; the policy of destabilization and coercion that the United States applies in Panama; and

this power's continuous threat to use force against the Panamanian state. The dangers I reported on that occasion have become more evident now as a result of an increase in U.S. Armed Forces actions in Panamanian territory in violation of the Republic of Panama's sovereignty and territorial integrity; the clauses of the 1977 Panama Canal treaties and their annexes; and the UN Charter.

This situation compels me to appear before you once again to renew our analysis of this issue and to express the need for adopting specific measures to prevent an armed conflict, because that is the current situation despite the great disparity that exists given our capability to retaliate and defend ourselves.

The UN Security Council usually handles reports on acts of war or preparations for war and discusses possible resolutions or actions in case of a fait accompli. An invasion, air raid, or land mobilization that violates borders and begins hostilities are highly visible and represent major events that quickly arouse an international reaction. Therefore, these events are now brought to the attention of this peace-keeping organization with abundant documentation and all kinds of graphic evidence.

The dead, the wounded, and the destruction caused by such acts of war cannot be hidden, and they represent a reality that cannot be denied or refuted. This creates a situation in which the Security Council cannot refrain from taking action. The Security Council's intervention in these cases—of which there have unfortunately been too many since the end of the war that was once proclaimed as the last of the wars—has represented a great contribution toward the creation of an ideally harmonious, peaceful, and fruitful world.

In fact, there have been many armed conflicts and international crises that the UN's timely intervention—supported by this council and the secretary general's mediation—has resolved or helped resolve. These actions recently made it possible to make significant progress toward peace in the African and Middle East regions, which had been suffering death and desolation for many years without hope for a solution.

Panama's situation, however, is unique. Panama has had a close relationship with the United States for 86 years. This relationship resulted in a maritime route for the world. This 14 August will mark this waterway's 75th anniversary. For 75 years, this canal has served international trade and transport. The military facilities that Panama allowed the United States to build during World War II played a particularly important strategic role in the struggle against fascism. The Panama Canal has played a vital role in the development of the American Continent and in commercial relations among nations of all continents.

In 1977, and as a corollary to the decolonization process to which the world remains committed, Panama and the United States signed treaties that ensured that Panama would have complete jurisdiction over all its territory. These treaties guaranteed for the world a neutral, safe canal open to the ships of all nations. For the Panamanian people, the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which dealt with the canal and its neutrality, were a positive step forward in their struggle for national liberation by establishing a decolonization program to eliminate the colonial enclave created by the United States in the heart of Panamanian territory.

Despite the generally frustrating experiences our country endured in its relations with the United States over the canal, in 1977 we again had confidence in the good faith that should dictate the actions of all states in complying with their international obligations in accordance with the UN Charter. The Panama Canal and nearby areas had up to that time served in several ways as part of the U.S. strategy in Latin America, particularly in Panama, Central America, and the Caribbean. The use of our geographical position had made it easier for the United States to expand politically, economically, and militarily toward other areas of the world. As we said earlier, a few days after the treaties went into force, Panama was forced to protest U.S. violations of the treaties. These violations have increased over the past decade. The first 10 years of the treaties had not yet passed when Panama again confronted new difficulties. For more than 2 years, hostile actions and international destabilization by the U.S. Government have been taking place to deprive Panama of the rights granted by the treaties and to strip the Panamanian state of its territorial integrity by perpetuating the existence of U.S. military bases beyond the agreed upon deadline.

The crisis in Panama-U.S. relations has been aggravated by the measures taken by the U.S. Government that violate the Panama Canal treaties and other accords. The following measures are worth mentioning:

1. In an action that undermines the Panamanian people's economic security, the United States has authorized Panama Canal Commission [PCC] employees to use military commissaries, although this right expired on 1 October 1984, as stipulated by Article 13 of the accord to enact Article 3 of the treaties.

2. The U.S. Government, in an inexplicable action, has refused to pay the Panamanian Government its percentage of the tolls the treaty states Panama must receive, as stipulated in Article 13, which states: An annual amount of up to 10 million U.S. dollars per year, to be paid out of canal operating revenues to the extent that such revenues exceed expenditures of the Panama Canal Commission, including amounts paid pursuant to this treaty. In the event Canal operating revenues in any

year do not produce a surplus sufficient to cover this payment, the unpaid balance shall be paid from operating surpluses in future years in a manner to be mutually agreed.

3. The U.S. Government has assigned new duties to the Panama Canal Commission secretary, which will allow him to claim powers that should be vested in the Panama Canal administrator, just when this position is to be taken over by a Panamanian.

4. The U.S. Government has suspended application of the PCC Board of Directors' regulation regarding the obligation to hold two board meetings annually in Panama in an effort to openly exclude the Panamanian board members from those meetings.

5. The U.S. Government has refused to accept the candidacy of the Panamanian citizen who is to be designated as the Panama Canal administrator in accordance with the procedure established under Letter C, Paragraph 3, of Article 3 of the Panama Canal Treaty, which stipulates that as of 1 January 1990, a Panamanian citizen will be named canal administrator. The Republic of Panama has fulfilled its duty of nominating a candidate. The United States has put off naming him, which indicates that on 1 January 1990, the Panama Canal will not have an administrator.

The U.S. Government has refused to pay the Panamanian Government the Panamanian PCC employees' income and educational taxes, thus disregarding binational agreements on the retention of income taxes.

There is no room for delay. I have come to the UN Security Council to calmly and reasonably report an imminent catastrophe, because I know that a nation with such a small population and territory can succumb to a heartless decision by the world's strongest military force without having time to seek the Security Council's corrective action and the international community's condemnation.

I insist that Panama's case is unlike other cases which, until now, have been discussed by this organization in its effort to preserve peace or restore it where it is disrupted.

The U.S. Army does not have to invade Panama because it is already in Panama. It is stationed, equipped, and prepared for combat in the very heart of Panama's territory. The U.S. Air Force does not have to deploy in Panama for an attack because it is already there, permanently stationed, carrying out maneuvers and intimidating, harassing operations, even in the air corridors set aside for civilian commercial aviation, with all the risks that this entails. The U.S. Air Force is also involved in joint operations with land and naval forces in Panamanian territory and jurisdictional waters.

On 30 September 1988, during the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, the Panamanian president reported that Panama was being threatened with an armed aggression.

These charges, the activities my government immediately began to carry out to report the real situation in Panama, and the many visits we have had from representatives of political, labor, business, and youth organizations from other nations, have been the only kind of external protection we have had so far.

The situation we are enduring has forced us to handle government affairs differently. The Armed Forces are now on permanent alert, and for this reason it cannot be imagined that a crazy adventure against our nation will be bloodless.

In the Panamanian situation, there is an unprecedented matter that I have come to denounce. This is something that, if it becomes a precedent, would defeat all the guarantees that the UN Charter offers to the countries that have no military might, because it would mean that the interpretation, scope, and applicability of the principles and other dispositions of the Charter would depend on the unilateral decision of the nation having the strength to impose its will.

Since the Panama Canal treaties and the treaty on permanent neutrality went into effect, whenever U.S. Armed Forces units were to be mobilized outside defense sites established by the treaties, those armed forces, acting in accordance with what the treaties specifically establish, would report this to the Panamanian representative on the Combined Board, which is a binational liaison and coordination organization created by the Panama Canal treaties.

Invariably, the mobilization of the U.S. forces would be coordinated with the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and Panamanian military units would escort the U.S. forces from the moment they left a defense site until they returned to it or arrived at another authorized defense site. This procedure is clearly established in the treaties—treaties that, in the spirit of safeguarding the integrity of Panama's sovereignty, go as far as prohibiting U.S. military personnel from moving about in uniform outside the defense sites, with the exception of personnel who live far away from military installations when they are going to their places of employment and personnel on specific missions related to the defense and protection of the canal.

Year after year, they complied with these requirements that govern the U.S. military presence in Panama. Maneuvers performed outside defense sites were always planned and executed jointly by the two countries. The FDP used to take part in these maneuvers, and the arrangements for logistical reasons were made by the

Combined Board. Naval movements in Panamanian waters were also reported and coordinated, and U.S. Air Force flights complied with the regulations established by Panamanian officials.

One day, without any explanation, the U.S. Armed Forces decided to ignore the regulations established by the treaties, and they began making hostile mobilizations that were reported to the UN secretary general and to the OAS secretary general on 18 April 1988.

Since then, the hostile actions have increased. In recent months, they have gone beyond what one can imagine.

Mssrs members of the Security Council, you be the judge of whether the actions that I will list now are an aggression or not within the framework of Annex 33-14 [words indistinct] of the UN General Assembly.

This resolution states, and I quote:

Article 1. Aggression is the use of armed force by a state against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence of another state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the UN Charter as established in this definition.

There is also an explanatory note included on the fact that the word state is used without implying that this state must be a UN member state.

Article 3 states that, whether or not a declaration of war exists, the following actions will be considered acts of war: The use of the armed forces of a state stationed in another state with the approval of the receiving state, in violation of the conditions established in the agreement or an extension of its presence in the receiving state after the agreement has expired.

All these actions have occurred in Panama in an unprecedented escalation. Please allow me to very briefly mention some of the incidents that can be described with no other word but aggression.

1. At 0125 on 5 January 1988, near the Miraflores locks—a facility essential in the operation of the Panama Canal—54 U.S. soldiers stationed at [U.S. Army] Fort Clayton and part of the 87th Brigade, 5th Infantry Battalion, were deployed to an area that the treaties establish as an area under Panamanian control. The soldiers were carrying 5 M-60's, 17 grenade launchers, and 37 M-16 rifles. This was in open violation of the canal treaties, which ban this type of unilateral mobilization.

2. In an act that can only be described as irresponsible, dangerous, and illegal, at 0120 on 9 March 1988, a U.S. Air Force Black Hawk combat helicopter, flew very low over the Jose Domingo Espinar Military Base, a Panamanian installation.

Through May 1989, the U.S. military forces carried out 56 actions similar to the above. All these actions represent violations of the rules established in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Please allow me to speak of the incidents that have occurred since the last Security Council session:

On 8 June 1989, without previous or any other type of warning, the U.S. Army deployed vehicles, armored personnel carriers, a large contingent of troops, and combat helicopters. Panama was not advised of this activity and a UH-58 helicopter, manned by persons who were not familiar with the area, hit some high voltage wires and crashed. Everyone in that helicopter burned to death as a result of a violation of the canal treaties. They were the victims of orders that, even according to U.S. laws, were illegal orders since the Panama Canal treaties are also U.S. laws.

On 18 June 1989, the U.S. Armed Forces illegally deployed armored vehicles, helicopter gunships, and assault troops heavily armed with machineguns and rifles to the community of Chilibre, located on the outskirts of Panama City, and took over the installations of the local water plant, which supplies water to one-third of the population of the Republic of Panama. The water plant takeover lasted 24 hours, and the U.S. Southern Command's explanation was that they were carrying out military exercises. The next week, on 25 June, a motorized detachment and assault troops—supported by low-flying helicopter gunships—again surrounded major military installations in Panama.

My statement does not include all the violations but is based on a selection of the most significant ones. We have evidence of hundreds of cases in which Panamanian citizens were arrested, insulted, and humiliated by U.S. soldiers. Recently the Republic of Panama was again shaken and its security seriously threatened by the U.S. Armed Forces. On 4 August 1989, U.S. soldiers in UH-60 helicopters and Hummers and carrying four Dragoon missile launchers and one M-50 machinegun set up positions at the entrance to the Fort Amador housing area, which is occupied by civilians. The U.S. soldiers pointed their weapons at the headquarters of the FDP's Victoriano Lorenzo Military Police and the headquarters of the FDP's General Command of the Defense and Security Commission [COGECODESE]. Two additional missile launchers were set up and pointed toward (?areas) that are frequently used by the civilian population.

On 8 August, the U.S. Armed Forces carried out an armed deployment, which included armored personnel carriers, on our highways. Upon encountering a peaceful protest organized by a group of Panamanians against this deployment of forces and weapons, the U.S. soldiers premeditatedly and treacherously rammed the citizens' vehicles and pointed their weapons at the people. The U.S. soldiers insulted and trampled the Panamanian flag

that the demonstrators were carrying, and then insulted and kidnapped Panamanian citizens—including civilian and military authorities who arrived at the scene to guarantee the Panamanians' safety. While this was taking place, U.S. land and naval forces raided the Fort Amador area.

Mr President, barely 2 days ago, and in an open violation of the Panama Canal treaties, troops of the illegal U.S. Southern Command blocked off the access road to Fort Amador—a military area that is shared by the two countries' armed forces—preventing the entrance of Panamanians to the area, and kidnapped two Panamanian policemen who were normally carrying out their traffic-control duties at the sentry box located at the entrance to the fort. On 10 August, three fighter aircraft flew just above the FDP's general headquarters, and in an incredible act of harassment against defenseless citizens, one Black Hawk helicopter gunship flew continuously and in a threatening manner over the Panamanian Foreign Ministry.

Yesterday, in a display of insolent force, the U.S. Army occupied the highway that links Panama City to the rest of the country and to Central America. Behaving in a manner unlawful even for national authorities, the U.S. soldiers humiliatingly searched bus passengers. Today, Mr President, four U.S. Army aircraft are flying over my country's capital.

I might add that the U.S. Army has tried to justify some of these actions by claiming the presumed right to unrestricted movement throughout Panamanian territory. The current treaties not only do not contain any statement to that effect, but the U.S. Army's interpretation of that presumed right has led to actions such as would be carried out by an army of occupation in a conquered region.

The purpose of these U.S. Army actions is to create an incident by taking their provocations to such extremes that the Panamanian people will be prompted to use any means in self-defense, thus unleashing an operation in which Panama would be mercilessly occupied.

I do not believe it is necessary to explain the origins of this dangerous conduct. You—gentlemen of the Security Council—are fully aware of Panama's strategic value, not only because the canal is there but because of its geographic position, which is of incalculable value, especially regarding communications between the various commands that form part of the sophisticated U.S. military complex, all of which heightens the canal's defense needs.

You have heard—and may hear again—weak allegations regarding the political process in Panama, the FDP's role in national development, and its institutional leadership, all of which constitute an open, unconcealed violation of the principle of nonintervention, because they are subjective, unilateral allegations regarding Panama's internal affairs, which cannot be the cause for any military action whatsoever by another state. Therefore, I will not elaborate on Panama's internal politics.

The situation I have come tc state before the Security Council's representatives is the existence of an imminent state of war that is urgent, that requires immediate attention, and calls upon the basic, fundamental functions of the organization created specifically to settle war and peace issues between nations.

The Panama Canal treaties and annexes, and the canal neutrality treaty, both of which have been in effect since 1979, include a solemnly pledged decolonization calendar, the fulfillment of which depends on the existence of a judicial structure required to regulate every nation's conduct in its relations with other nations.

The treaties grant the U.S. Government limited rights, and nowhere do they contain any text that could lead the U.S. Government to claim the right to irresponsibly leave live, unexploded ammunition, which has killed and led to the hospitalization of many Panamanians, in the streets and countryside of the Republic of Panama. The treaties do not make provisions for or authorize U.S. war planes to utilize Panamanian airspace without previous coordination with our authorities, because they pose a threat to commercial flights from Panama, the United States, and other countries.

The treaties do not offer the least grounds for the U.S. Armed Forces to occupy Panamanian installations of vital importance to the civilian population or for them to deploy vehicles with weapons aimed at major FDP installations.

Nothing in the treaties can be interpreted as a justification to deploy contingents of heavily armed troops, whose arms are loaded with live ammunition, in our cities and towns or for their fighter planes to simulate an armed attack. When the U.S. Armed Forces command in Panama arbitrarily and illegally decided that there were no limits or restrictions for their armed deployments or actions, and given the U.S. military power, Panama in fact became an invaded territory, where only the invader's order to open fire is missing. This charge is all the more serious when we consider the cases of criminal behavior of U.S. military personnel and that their commander in chief constantly boasts that he can massacre the Panamanian people. The Panama Canal treaties forbid both U.S. civilians and military personnel from meddling in Panama's domestic affairs. Military power has been used in our territory, not only to instill fear and to threaten us, but also to create the necessary environment in which to create a pretext for carrying out battle plans.

Mr President: The facts I have reported to the member countries of this council and to the international community make it necessary for Panama to make some

remarks that accurately reflect the various characteristics that are considered to be part of Panama's foreign policy. I hereby reiterate that Panama is fully aware of the important international role it has been playing since early in the century and that a significant part of its sovereign territory is committed to serve international maritime communications, thus contributing toward preserving, consolidating, and increasing world trade. We insist that this peaceful and beneficial participation in the efforts for peace and the progress of mankind will continue to be a vital part of our destiny and will be fully complied with according to our capability as an independent nation.

At the same time that Panama places so valuable an installation at the service of mankind, however, the country firmly demands the justice it deserves and the recognition of its right to preserve its dignity and decorum. Panama demands respect for its sovereignty and unconditional compliance with all canal treaty clauses, which constitute a standard for the canal's operation and maintenance.

We Panamanians have said flatly that the military threat that violates the treaties—for which only the U.S. Government is to blame—seriously and daily jeopardizes the canal operation and peace in the most sensitive area of the Central American region, whose stability is absolutely essential for the canal users. May I repeat, Mr President, that the operation of the canal is in danger today? We have warned of this danger on many occasions. So far, however, the evidence produced has not led to a concerted international effort with the necessary moral force to prevent the preparations for an armed aggression and other violations from going forward, and so that these actions will not be repeated from now until the canal treaties expire on 31 December 1999.

The OAS has also received detailed information that accurately describes the true causes of the conflict.

However, on several of their trips to Panama the OAS special mission, assigned to carry out diplomatic efforts aimed at finding peaceful solutions among Panamanians, has been greeted with massive U.S. military mobilizations instead of good wishes for the task they have undertaken. During these mobilizations, the U.S. soldiers leave the established defense sites specified in the canal treaties and move about the entire area with blatant disrespect for that regional organization. We hereby state that we believe the time has come for the whole international community to turn its eyes to this part of the world because Panama is practically the scene of a war.

Since we have no time to lose, we have come before this Security Council with a sense of urgency never before experienced. Concerned about the fate of a canal that benefits everyone, we have, at this solemn moment, decided to give the custody of the canal treaties to the Security Council so that this organization can ensure strict compliance with the treaties and guarantee the normal and proper operation of the interoceanic waterway, which today is endangered as a result of the constant violations of the treaties that guide its operation. The Panama Canal is operated on the basis of a bilateral treaty, but the rest of the world must also focus its attention on it. An act of war committed with impunity or disguised through old tricks is something that affects everyone and should be of special interest to everyone because of the example it would set and the terrible path it would open for mankind.

This is why my request is humble and simple. I do not ask for condemnation nor do I urge a change. What the Panamanian situation demands is the presence of military observers who we wish could be there on Monday, 14 August, the day on which the canal celebrates its 75th anniversary of being open to world maritime traffic.

I wish to stress that if the United States decides to occupy Panama by force, the cost will be higher than estimated by those who are today inciting and promoting the use of force and a long time will go by before peace returns to the banks of the Panama Canal. The community of nations can make the United States change its mind regarding a war of annexation and political domination. The testimonies of the appointed observers would prevent the real situation from being ignored and keep the crime from going down in history unpunished. The dissuasive action of the world's awareness and the awareness of the U.S. people with their growing peaceful nature will prevent a barbaric action. We ask nothing more. This is the Panamanian request and the reason for my being here.

This morning I gave the UN secretary general a note that expresses the Panamanian Government's wishes for a mission appointed by the secretary general to carry out its good offices to prevent an imminent disruption of peace in the region and for this mission to be sent to verify the situation and to promote urgent measures that will contribute to reducing tension between the two countries.

I have presented no fact that is the result of someone's imagination. The state of tension between the U.S. Army and the FDP is real and is rapidly growing. The threat of a catastrophic confrontation must be approached with a quick preventive action by the international community. Only the FDP's high degree of professionalism has kept this escalation of provocations, military maneuvers, harassments, and humiliations from developing into a massacre of great proportions. However, when a peaceful people like the Panamanian people accumulate resentments and frustrations because the most powerful army in the world arrogantly tramples upon their dignity, the emotional reaction cannot be contained. The outcome will be terrifying and have unforeseeable consequences. Under less dramatic circumstances than the one we are experiencing today, Omar Torrijos said

something that today becomes dangerously true. He said, and I quote: The United States is running out of excuses, and the Panamanian people are running out of patience.

Thank you, Mr President.

Arias, Ford Challenge Noriega to Plebiscite

PA1208150489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0535 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 Aug (AFP)—Panamanian opposition leaders Ricardo Arias and Guillermo Ford on 11 August urged Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega to agree to the holding of a plebiscite to decide on his withdrawal and the result of the 7 May elections.

Upon their return to Panama tonight, following a tour of Peru, Venezuela, and Colombia, both opposition leaders said that "if Noriega does not agree to the holding of a plebiscite, it is because he is afraid of the Panamanian people."

The opposition proposed a plebiscite last week as an alternative to the tripartite dialogue between the FDP, the government, and the opposition, which was being held under the auspices of the OAS.

Nevertheless, the proposal was rejected by the parties of the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) and by Noriega, who said that "the only plebiscite there can be is to decide on whether to be a colony or to have dignity."

Arias declared that during his tour of the countries with Ford, he found "a deep commitment of solidarity with the Panamanian people's struggle for democracy." Regarding the tripartite dialogue, Arias noted that the opposition is willing to continue the talks with the regime and the government.

Blast Rejection of Proposal

PA1208231389 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2145 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 12 Aug (REUTER)—The opposition today challenged Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega to agree to a plebiscite so that the Panamanian people can decide the country's future.

In a speech yesterday to mark his 6th anniversary as Armed Forces commander, Noriega, Panama's de facto leader who has resisted 18 months of U.S. pressures to depose him, rejected the opposition's proposal for holding plebiscite to decide if he should resign from his post.

Noriega said that the only possible plebiscite would involve asking the Panamanians if they want dignity or to be a U.S. colony.

Opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon said it would be "very feasible to organize a plebiscite in which [the government] would write its own proposal on its own terms, and we would write our's, and the people could choose."

"I believe that Gen Noriega fears the Panamanian people. If he does not fear them, he should accept the challenge of a plebiscite and allow the Panamanian people to judge."

The opposition has suggested a plebiscite as a solution to the political crisis caused by the annulment of the 7 May general elections, which the opposition claims to have won.

Noriega yesterday dismissed the possibility of an opposition government when he said that Panama's future presidents must not receive orders from the United States.

"The most pro-Gringo of all Panamanians is Noriega, who has worked for the CIA. None of us have such employment records," Arias said.

A former Noriega adviser told the U.S. Congress last year that the general maintained close ties with the CIA before falling out of Washington's grace.

For the very first time in a speech, Noriega referred to the "murder" of former Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos, who died in a airplane accident in Panama in 1981.

He said that Torrijos was sentenced to death because he said: "Always standing, never on your knees."

Torrijos' brother said years later that the accident had been staged by the U.S. CIA.

"Who would have been in charge of investigating General Torrijos' murder? This regime. Why has it not carried out an investigation if it knows it was an assasination?" Arias asked.

"If assasinations took place then, they have been covered up by this regime, especially by Gen Noriega," he added.

Arias and Guillermo Ford, opposition vice presidential candidates in the May elections, returned home on Friday after visiting Venezuela, Peru, and Colombia.

Hold News Conference on Tour

PA1208195089 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1750 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Report on ADOC Leader Ricardo Arias Calderon's 12 August news conference after returning to Panama City—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] After a working tour of Venezuela, Peru, and Colombia, Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, leaders of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance

[ADOC], returned to the country. Both leaders met during their last stopover in Bogota with Colombian President Virgilio Barco, who received them in Narino Palace. They explained the situation of Panama and promoted their proposal for the holding of a 20 August plebiscite to choose between the proposals submitted thus far in the tripartite dialogue.

During their tour, Arias Calderon and Ford were also received by the presidents of Venezuela and Peru, Carlos Andres Perez and Alan Garcia, respectively. Both presidents expressed their support of the Panamanian people and voiced the hope that the Panamanian crisis may be resolved soon. Regarding the tour, the ADOC leaders held a news conference in which they explained their tour in detail. Here is the explanation given by Ricardo Arias Calderon.

[Arias] "Summing up the conversations we held, we find several things in common: 1) They are all aware that the fundamental problem in Panama is a conflict between a dictatorship and a democracy. None of them has any doubt that this is the basic problem in our country; 2) All are clearly aware that popular sovereignty and national sovereignty are inseparable. They believe that only a free people can be truly soverign. One of them stated publicly—in fact I can identify him, President Alan Garcia—that in no case can national sovereignty be identified with a uniformed man, that national sovereignty resides in a free people. That idea is shared by all; 3) All agree that the greatest obstacle to democracy in Panama and the greatest obstacle to maintaining popular sovereignty and national sovereignty is General Manuel Antonio Noriega. None of them believes that it is possible to resolve the grave situation affecting the Panamanian people unless the withdrawal of Gen Noriega occurs in some way.

Last, there is an awareness among the principal government and opposition leaders whom we spoke to that we are working against the clock, because there are three basic dates. The first date is 23 August, when the foreign ministers will meet again in Washington. A concern was evident that on that date the OAS may adopt a very clear position, and a concern was evident that unless this occurs, the existence of the OAS may enter into crisis.

There was also a clear awareness of the importance of the date of 1 September. It is clear that unless there is a democratic and constitutional solution before 1 September, what will occur is that a new de facto situation will be imposed, which will bring grave consequences for the Panamanian people and, consequently, for Latin America. Last, we find that the government and opposition leaders whom we spoke to are also aware of a a third date, 31 December, when according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties, a Panamanian should be presented and appointed to the post of chief administrator of the Panama Canal. They are aware of the grave tensions that exist between the U.S. Government and the Noriega regime. And, as he stated publicly—I identify him, President Alan Garcia—if the current situation persists, the fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and total nationalization of the canal would be endangered."

During the news conference, the ADOC leaders also referred to the Latin American presidents' reaction to the holding of a plebiscite and to the general's response on that topic.

[Arias] "In all the talks we held, a genuine interest was evidenced on the proposed plebiscite, because it is viewed as a democratic means to transfer power. One of the presidents issued a statement in the wake of our visit, asking that the proposal be given serious consideration. I believe he was expressing the general feelings of the rest, but one of them expressed it.

Regarding Gen Noriega's statement yesterday, we note that he also referred to a plebiscite. Thus, it would be very feasible to organize a plebiscite wherein they draft their proposal in their terms and we draft our proposal in our terms and the Panamanian people choose between the two."

Endara Comments on 'Climate of Tension'

PA1108123289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2302 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Interview with Guillermo Endara, former Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADOC, presidential candidate, by unidentified reporters on 11 August; place not given]

[Text] [Endara] In general terms I can tell you that Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford are very pleased with the results of their trip and we, the Panamanians, must be very grateful to the presidents they met with. The South American presidents have expressed enormous solidarity with the Panamanian people.

[Reporter] Do you have any comments regarding the climate of tension existing between the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and the U.S. Army?

[Endara] The situation is very unfortunate, very unfortunate. Even more unfortunate is the fact that in 1977 when the plebiscite was held to decide on whether or not the canal treaties should be signed, we, who today make up the opposition, warned that the clauses on military coordination areas and the mobilization between the military coordination areas were very dangerous for Panama. Even the humiliating Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty [treaty that granted the canal zone in perpetuity to the United States] did not have a clause like this, and we warned that these clauses could be even more dangerous than the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty. Unfortunately our warnings went unheard. At that time we were

called radical nationalists and some even suggested that we were communists. Today we are seeing the results of their ignoring our objections to these vital points of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

[Reporter] The government has said that your proposal for a plebiscite is unconstitutional. However, the government's and COLINA's [National Liberation Coalition] are also unconstitutional. What is your opinion?

[Endara] All that they have proposed is unconstitutional. Furthermore, the dialogue we are holding is not contemplated in the Constitution. The government is involved in a dialogue that is not authorized by the Constitution. This is why we originally suggested that the dialogue be between the FDP and the ADOC. As far as we are concerned, the government is not constitutionally authorized to participate in this dialogue. However, we did not want to make an issue out of this because we were interested in talking and exploring the possibilities of a solution. Today we realize that the positions of the parties in conflict are irreconcilable and the only way to solve this situation is through a plebiscite. Let the people solve the problem; hold a plebiscite and let the people decide between the two positions. We will accept whatever the people decide.

[Reporter] Mr Endara, if the tripartite dialogue sponsored by the OAS does not continue what will the opposition do?

[Endara] We are waging a struggle and we will not give the dictatorship a single day of rest. We are committed to the people. We promised to fight to the end. We will be persevering; we will persist in our struggle. We are Arnulfo Arias Madrid's students. He never surrendered and we will never surrender. Despite what may happen with the dialogue, we will continue the struggle.

U.S. Embassy Official Reportedly Meets Endara

PA1208142489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Aug 89 pp 13, 28

[Text] At 1516 on 11 August, Guillermo Endara, alias Dumbo, directly received from John Maisto the latest instructions to continue with the wave of betrayal against the Panamanian people.

In fact, at the abovementioned time, John Maisto, the failure, arrived with a group of members of the nonrecognized U.S. Embassy at the apartment that "Dumbo" Endara has in a Punta Paitilla building.

According to witnesses, Maisto arrived with a folder under one arm at the building "ramp" followed by five vehicles. He immediately got on the elevator and went to the apartment where "Dumbo" has lived for more than 1 year, after separating from his wife, who died recently.

Southern Command Actions, Cisneros Criticized

PA1108164889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "For Panama: Our Lives!"]

[Text] Panamanian patience has limits and it is now being reached. Following instructions of wetback, stateless Marc Cisneros to provoke Panamanian civilians, U.S. soldiers again blocked the entrance and exits of Fort Amador and Balboa in the reverted areas. Thousands of Panamanians who were going from one place to another in Panama City or who were circulating in Ancon Corregimiento—an area that is considered a white area by the Torrijos-Carter treaties—were detained by Cisneros' soldiers. That act of provocation can only be planned by a crackpot who suffers from war psychosis and who is under the effects of a powerful drug that Vietnam veterans frequently inhaled to control their state of mind, resulting from an abnormal and morbid health condition.

There cannot be another explanation. Only a sick person who has a thirst for blood, and who is still pursued by scenes of cruelty experienced in southeast Asia; only a man who cannot sleep and whose senses are so unbalanced that he thinks he is still living those scenes of cruelty and war—in which he was humiliated, offended, and despised by soldiers whom he considered inferior and by an army of ragged, starving Vietnamese who could never defeat him in theory—only a stateless mercenary, who lives pursued by ghosts of desperation; only a madman without law, morality, and homeland, as the wetback we are talking about, can be so wild as to think that he is still in that jungle, where those emaciated soldiers made him absorb their offended virility all the way up to his duodenum.

Panamanians, who are naturally peaceful, were not made to put up with such insolence. It is true that Panamanians will not fall into the provocations of the intruders' army, but it is also true that we have hot blood running through our veins. That blood is as hot as the Caribbean sun that floods our noble homeland. And our patience has its limits.

The holocaust could have been sparked yesterday. The holocaust could be sparked today or maybe tomorrow. We are patient, but patience has its limits.

Something must be clarified to a world that is now witnessing the permanent provocations and the humiliating and constant aggression and harassment to which the Yankee invader is subjecting the brave Panamanian people. The following statement is not a piece of bravado: We will not detonate the fuse. But if it is detonated—and we hope that it is not—this generation of Panamanians would be willing to die in the worthiest and most noble and heroic struggle that any people ever fought in the defense of its national dignity.

This time—and let this be clearly written with words of eternity—it will not be like the incidents of 9 January 1964, when an unarmed and defenseless people with their bare chests faced the barbarity of the genocidal army.

This time many mothers, wives, daughters, sons, grandparents, relatives of the far-off Union [United States] will receive the aluminum coffins or the black, polyethylene bags with the bodies of their dead, young loved-ones. Those youths will be dead, because in this land of peaceful men they caused an absurd confrontation with people who exacted a very heavy toll of vengeance for that offense and who preferred to die than to live subdued.

Not everybody be mistaken! We have an army and people ready to exact a heavy toll for that offense. This people and army have already decided to give up their lives for Panama if necessary!

Journalists' Group Protest U.S. Army Abuses
PA1108150589 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Aug 89 pp 1, 8

["Resolution" issued by the Renovacion Publishing House Corporation Journalists Association, ASOP-ERSA, in Panama City on 9 August]

[Text] Whereas:

On 8 August, local and foreign reporters were victims of the arrogance by undisciplined U.S. troops.

Reporters from this corporation suffered mistreatment by the U.S. Army based in our national territory.

Our flag was torn and Panamanian military men and civilians were arbitrarily detained.

Resolves:

To condemn the abuses committed yesterday against local journalists and foreign correspondents by U.S. Army Southern Command troops.

To repudiate the despicable and cowardly act against reporters of this corporation who had their recorders, photographic cameras, and notebooks confiscated and their lives threatened with high-powered weapons.

To report before the international news organizations the outrage and abuse that Panamanian journalists as well as foreign correspondents have been suffering for some time by the U.S. Army Southern Command based in Panama.

Issued in Panama City on 9 August 1989
[Signed] Antonio Graell Flores, president
Ernesto Quijada Diaz, board member
Buenaventura Donato, treasurer
Hollis Robinson, secretary
Francisco Mendez Herazo, board member
cc: Federation of Latin American Journalists (FELAP)

FDP Detains U.S. Army Vehicles 11 Aug
PA1208025989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2320 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] U.S. troops today added another link to the chain of violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and, on this occasion, seriously threatened Panamanians. Let us see what happened today in Curundu.

[Begin U.S. Army Colonel A. Rossi recording, in English] I don't give a shit. I want to tell you that I don't want any more stopping of our soldiers while they are doing their (?duty). [Words indistinct] I don't want to hear it. I don't want to hear it. [repeats himself] If there is any more stopping, I am not going [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The next time you stop our people we are going to use force, was the threat made by Major Mansfield [as heard] of the U.S. Army South against the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. This proves the premedidated nature of the provocations and serious violations against Panama by the U.S. Army.

The incidents occurred this afternoon when two private vehicles carrying heavily armed civilians were stopped by the traffic police on the road to (Conama) in the reverted area of Curundu. The incident, the result of harassment and recklessness by the U.S. troops, created a situation that, had it not been for the calmness and good sense of the Panamanian soldiers, would have ended in a serious armed confrontation and bloodshed that the Panamanians have been avoiding.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What caused the incident?

[FDP Major Carlos Saldana] It was another violation by U.S. troops, who continue to travel in private vehicles and in civilian clothes while armed. This is forbidden by the treaties because they have to travel through a White Area, an area that reverted to Panama following the implementation of the treaties. They claim this is a Green Area, a military coordination area, and that is not true. Following the implementation of the treaties, this area, and the houses located to my right, reverted to Panama. These are reverted areas, White Areas.

Just because our men stopped them, they ordered a mass deployment of troops and brought in their famous Hummers [HUMMV's] which we call spiders [arana]. Most of their troops are in civilian clothes and are armed. This is a violation of the treaties. No country in the world can accept the deployment of armed troops in civilian clothes. If they tried to do this in any other country of the world, they would be killed just as any other common thief or criminal. But they do it here.

[Reporter] How many vehicles were stopped in the White Area?

[Saldana] One vehicle carrying civilians and weapons.

[Reporter] Rifles?

[Saldana] M-16 rifles. The minute we stopped them, they mounted their operation. [end recording]

After they were stopped, the U.S. soldiers, dressed in civilian clothes, without cause or justification, hid in tall grass beside the road and assumed combat positions and called for reinforcements. Many armored personnel carriers moved in, supported from the air by heavily armed Cobra helicopters. The armored personnel carriers surrounded the FDP troops.

Major Carlos Saldana, deputy director of the National Directorate of Ground Transportation, explained what had happened to Major Mansfield, who showed up in the area commanding the troops. This is further proof of the degree of arrogance, which is the nature of each of these actions that violate the treaties. U.S. Army Colonel Rossi arrived later. In the beginning he assumed a stubborn attitude but later changed his mind and talked with Maj Saldana. In this way, the problem was solved. However, Maj Mansfield had already made his threat that they will use force the next time their civilian personnel, carrying weapons—in open violation of the Torrijos - Carter treaties—are stopped.

During the incident, the U.S. troops surrounded the Curundu road that leads to the Public Works Ministry building. After the Panamanian traffic policemen left the area, the U.S. soldiers blocked the road with their armored personnel carriers, cutting off access to Friendship Highway and Juan Pablo II Road. This resulted in a traffic jam on National Avenue and Felipe Clements Avenue.

In light of these serious incidents, which caused a tense situation between the two armies, a large number of curiosity seekers gathered only meters away from where the incident was taking place. It is only right to advise the people to refrain from standing by on these occasions because it could be very dangerous.

U.S. Troops, FDP Involved in Incident 12 Aug

PA1308004589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2344 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] In another act of arrogance and in open violation of the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter treaty, soldiers of the U.S. Army South carried out an operation in areas under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Panama from 0050 to 0230 today. Arguing that they were protecting a U.S. mail truck, U.S. soldiers traveling in Hummer vehicles went as far as the area near the Panamanian Air Force and the 2d Infantry Company in Tocumen. The route used by the combat vehicles of the U.S. Army South was Ricardo Alfaro Road beginning at El Dorado. The action by the U.S. soldiers led to the immediate mobilization of the 2d and 4th Infantry Companies to the site of the incident.

Major Mansfield, accompanied by other officers of the U.S. Army South, also arrived at the site. In a rude and arrogant manner, they argued that they would protect their vehicles whenever and wherever they wished and that they do not have to request permission or coordinate anything.

It must be stressed that during this new provocative incident, alcohol could be smelled on the breath of some of the officers of the illegal Army South.

Lieutenant Colonel Armando Palacios Gondola, chief of the general command of the Defense and Security Commission, and Major Moises Giroldi, chief of the 4th Infantry Company, also arrived at the site of the incident. They prevented this incident from deteriorating into an armed confrontation.

The arrogant actions by the U.S. troops included the deployment of 12 armored personnel carriers and 3 Hummer vehicles, which in a threatening manner surrounded the members of the Panama Defense Forces' Centurion Unit who were posted at the checkpoint on Friendship Way at El Dorado.

University Issues Resolution on U.S. Actions

PA1208160389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Aug 89 p 2

[Resolution No 1-89 issued by the University of Panama's General Council, date not given]

[Text] Whereas:

1. The 154 years of existence of Mendez Pereira's House [University of Panama] have been 154 years of struggle for our sovereignty and the perfection of our national independence.

2. The University of Panama has historically been for excellence and the institution that has created national awareness. University students have been in the frontline in conducting actions repudiating U.S. occupation of our soil.

3. Since June 1987, the U.S. Government has unleashed a campaign of political, economic, and military pressures. This campaign has been disastrous and seriously hindered our national economy and public peace. It has caused our economy to topple, created a climate of uncertainty, and has brought poverty, unemployment, and concern to thousands of Panamanian homes.

4. The United States' flagrant intervention in Panama's internal affairs has reached the point of military maneuvers in our territory and these actions violate the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

5. The U.S. military maneuvers represent a threat of military intervention into our territory. Furthermore, they violate our sovereignty and cause fear and endanger the lives of poor Panamanians who live in the area where the U.S. maneuvers are held.

6. The U.S. Southern Command officers, especially Brigadier General Marc Cisneros, have repeatedly issued threats of intervention that deeply hurt the Panamanians' patriotism and national dignity.

Resolves:

1. To firmly condemn the U.S. miltary manuevers being held in our national territory.

2. To express that the political conflict that presently divides the Panamanians must be resolved by the Panamanians without foreign intervention or threats, regardless of where they come from.

3. To blame the United States for the country's serious economic crisis and its consequences and demand that U.S. aggression against Panama be suspended.

4. To reaffirm that the university personnel will reject, using any means within our means, U.S. military intervention into our territory and renew our willingness to struggle for a free and democratic fatherland that will ensure peace, tranquillity, and well-being for all Panamanians.

5. To insist that all the country's social and political sectors hold a dialogue to find the most appropriate mechanisms to solve the national crisis. These mechanisms should promote democracy, social justice, citizen rights, and strengthen the nation's independence and sovereignty.

[Signed] The President, Dr Abdiel J. Adames
The Secretary, Dr Miguel A. Candanedo.

Planning Minister Says U.S. Blocking Aid

PA1308001489 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez has said that Panama's economy has not changed during the past 3 months, and that it has been primarily marked by stagnation. Gonzalez said that the economy is currently in a critical situation that has hindered capital growth and economic reactivation.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] I hope the situation will change so that the country can make faster progress.

[Reporter] Does that mean that the economy is noticeably deteriorating?

[Gonzalez] I am not saying that the economy is noticeably deteriorating. We are facing a burdensome fiscal situation and the lack of immediate prospects for peace have created a deadlock.

[Reporter] Is Panama eligible for fresh loans from international organizations? Are efforts being made at this level?

[Gonzalez] We are making every effort. However, you must understand that a country like the United States can wield considerable power to block aid to a country that has always had a good credit rating.

[Reporter] How much longer can the country withstand this situation?

[Gonzalez] As long as the country has the resolve—as it has demonstrated—it will resist. [end recording]

Columnist Alleges U.S. Disregard of Canal Treaty

PA1208163589 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Aug 89 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Ready To Strike With His Paws"]

[Text] This 8 August incident in Arraijan indicate that General Cisneros is ready to soak his claws with the blood of the Panamanian people.

Cisneros is desperate because despite his criminal provocations, he has not been able to make the Panamanian patriots—the majority—bend, and this majority is on the alert, ready to die for their nation's sovereignty and independence.

Cisneros is desperate and this is why the aggression, the provocations, and the deployment of the military might at his disposal are increasing. Psychopathic Cisneros is ill because he has not bathed himself yet with Panamanian blood, an obsession of his. Being crazy, he could at any moment attack a small country whose patriotic and honorable people, the majority, must be annihilated, murdered, and destroyed to please his satanic instincts.

Since the United States has arbitrarily suspended the validity and implementation of the Panama Canal Treaty, the nation to the north is acting as if that treaty had never been negotiated, approved, and signed in line with the constitutional dispositions of the two signatory countries.

However, it can be said that Article IV of the treaty on the protection and defense of the Panama Canal and on the Panamanian and U.S. commitment to protect and defend the Panama Canal has been violated.

Article IV of the treaty mandates that "each party, in keeping with its constitutional procedures, take measures to face the danger of an armed attack or other actions threatening the security of the Panama Canal or ships transiting it." Article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty also establishes the mechanisms to defend the canal and for training maneuvers for the two parties, which will be agreed upon through the Combined Board established by the treaty. Neither the Combined Board nor mechanisms specified in that article exist for Cisneros.

According to Article IV of the treaty, the U.S. Armed Forces "do not have the right to conduct maneuvers or military training outside the bases designated by the Republic of Panama as the sovereign over those defense sites. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Maneuvers and military exercises such as those that the United States is arrogantly conducting on Panamanian territory must be organized through the Combined Board and Combined Committee as specified by Article III of the accord for the implementation of Article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty.

However, the Torrijos-Carter treaty does not exist, because the United States has suspended its validity. Panamanian-U.S. relations are now ruled by brute force, the big stick, weapons, violence, destruction, and death. Cisneros aims to destroy Panama and its people and he will do everything he can to achieve this goal. The 8 August incident in Arraijan leads us to believe that we will pay dearly soon; die with dignity.

Authorities Arrest Four Opposition Members

PA1308041789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0025 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 12 Aug (DPA)—Jose Faundes, secretary general of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee (CPDH), disclosed today that four members of the opposition were arrested by Panamanian authorities over the weekend.

Faundes said that the arrests of coed Nuria Velarde, Christian Democratic Legislator Camilo Brenes, Roberto Brown, and a doctor whose surname is Marin have been reported to his office.

Concerning Velarde, Faundes explained that she was intercepted by state security agents minutes after she left the opposition Christian Democratic Party's headquarters with a package of flyers.

Faundes pointed out that Velarde, born in Spain and the daughter of a Panamanian father and Ecuadoran mother, is a student at the Catholic Santa Maria La Antigua University.

Faundes also announced that the CPDH plans to present the respective writs of habeas corpus in an attempt to gain the detainees' release.

Opposition Leader Brenes Detained

PA1208213589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0225 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 11 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—[Passage omitted] Panamanian opposition leader Camilo Brenes was detained this afternoon by military men at a city near the Costa Rican border, for "obviously political" reasons, his sister-in-law Mercedes de Brenes reported.

"The reason (for his detention) is obviously political. The FDP refuses to admit holding him in the David garrison (Panamanian city bordering Costa Rica)," Mercedes Brenes, wife of Roberto Brenes, president of the Civic Opposition Crusade, told ACAN-EFE.

RPC Television, Radio Resume Transmissions

PA1108173789 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1704 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Following instructions of the Panamanian Government and Justice Ministry, members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] last night disconnected the central transmission towers of the Circuito RPC radio and television network and ordered the station's operators to clear the premises.

When the next Circuito RPC's shift arrived at the premises, they noticed the FDP members had already left.

Up until this moment, Circuito RPC is unaware of the reasons for the Government and Justice Ministry instructions. In view of that situation, our technicians have restored our transmitter equipment, allowing us to resume our regular transmissions.

Delegation Attends Arab Congress in Tripoli

PA1308003689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 11 Aug 89 pp 2, 14

[Text] Tripoli, Libya (S.E.)—Following the debates of the Second Special Congress of the Federation of Arab Organizations in America (FEARAB) held in Tripoli—during which ethnic Arabs discussed at length the different problems that affect communities established in the West—it was decided to create an organization to polarize immigrants' various potentials; organize them within the framework of American-Arab groups; and organize them in the cultural, social, sports, and tourism sectors so that they may become efficient links of exchange between Arab countries and the American countries to which they immigrate.

In another resolution within this event, ethnic Arabs who gathered at the El Kabir Hotel included the Panamanian delegation's report on the U.S. imperialism's

aggression and condemned the U.S. Congress for actions that afflict the small Central American nations, particularly Panama, which has earned the Arab people's sympathies.

The Panamanian delegation was led by Mu'ammar 'Umar Faki, president of FEARAB in Panama, and included Khalid Salamah, 'Abd-al-Zayid, Isma'il 'Abad, Umays Sayyid, and others—plus two Panamanian journalists as guests—Luis Romero Villalobos, Director of the National Media Directorate of the Government and Justice Ministry, and Vicente Carrera, of the DIALOGO SOCIAL magazine.

The second FEARAB congress received the recognition and congratulations of the president of the Jamahiriyah, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for the excellent organization of this important event—which brought together in Tripoli more than 100 Arab leaders from Brazil, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Panama, El Salvador, Chile, Argentina, and elsewhere. In his message Col al-Qadhdhafi welcomed the Arab brothers of the Americas and urged them to seek unity with the Arab world against empires that exploit the poorest people of the world.

The next congress will be held in the Republic of Argentina, according to the organizing committee.

Endara Commemorates Arnulfo Arias' Death

PA1208164289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The great pilgrimage of remembrance called by the opposition began 10 August at 1300 with a mass at the El Carmen Church. Family members of the late political leader, among them his widow Mireya Moscoso and his political heir Guillermo Endara Galimany, were present at the mass commemorating the first anniversary of Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid's death. Father Fernando Guardia said the mass was attended by many people.

Following the mass, the pilgrimage began. The people marched down Via Espana, one of the main avenues in Panama City. Shouting the slogan 'Arnulfo lives' and carrying the Panamanian flag, the people remembered the dead political leader. The pilgrimage was held in perfect order and ended at the Jardin de Paz cemetery, where the mortal remains of Arnulfo Arias Madrid lay.

An event during which Arias Madrid was remembered was held at the cemetery. Rosario Arias spoke on behalf of the Arias family. She stressed the importance of the late opposition leader. Guillermo Endara, Arnulfo Arias' political heir, also spoke during the event.

[Begin Endara recording] Let us always remember Dr Arias' ideals. For Arias, people were not only the most important factor; for Arias, people were everything. Never, never did he abandon the people's interests. No one's interests, not even his personal interests, came first; he always sacrificed for the people.

As his student and pupil—among many, as I am not the only one, he left many students and pupils behind—I only want to go down in history as a loyal man, a man who is loyal to the Panamanian people! [Applause] I do not mind, I even like to be called Cuchungo. [crowd laughs] My enemies also call me sweet bread. I like that name too! [applause, shouts]. They can call me dummy if they want! [applause, shouts] However, before you, before the Panamanian people, and before history, I want to be known as Guillermo Endara, who is loyal to the Panamanian people! I want people to say: Endara was always loyal to the people, he never betrayed them! [applause, shouts].

We in the democratic opposition, in the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, have proposed as a solution for our grave problems that the Panamanians people themselves decide what they want. We do not want anyone from abroad to tell us what to do! [applause, shouts]

We are going to win this struggle, because I can assure you that Arnulfo Arias Madrid, the Panamanian people's servant, is guiding us in this incredibly hard but dignified and peaceful battle of the Panamanian people! Thank you. [applause]

FDP Announces Promotions, Transfers

PA1208180589

[Editorial Report] Panama City CRITICA in Spanish on 10 August reports that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Command and General Staff "in keeping with its organization and development policy," has announced new promotions. Pages 1 and 16 carry a 150-word report on the 9 August promotion of four captains to the rank of major, as follows: German Pinzon of the G-3 of the General Staff; Rodrigo Colon Sanchez, presidential aide-de-camp; Ricardo Guardia, chief of the 8th Infantry Company; Carlos Saldana, of the National Directorate of Land Traffic and Transportation; and Mario Del Cid, chief of Cristobal Police.

Page 2 carries a 150-word report on the 8 August transfer of command ceremony at Jose Domingo Espinar Fort, during which Col Roberto Armijo, outgoing commander of the military training center, transferred command to Lt Col Aquilino Sieiro Murgas. Armijo was appointed chief of the Panama Police Corps.

Columnist on Church Role in Political Dialogue

PA1108162989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Aug 89 pp 18, 14

[Article by Elia Sepulveda-Diez: "History and Facts"]

[Text] According to legends, when the knights left their lands to go to other places where they would engage in bloody "holy wars," as a precautionary measure—maybe

because they did not trust their wives—they had them wear chastity belts to make sure they would not be unfaithful to them during their long absences.

It now appears that in our country we will soon have to create some sort of oral "chastity belt" for some church representatives who, in open alliance with Civic Crusade members—the same ones who are in the opposition parties—are trying to prevent a civilized solution through dialogue. Each time an "agenda for the dialogue" is proposed, they make statements that seem to be based more on the White House's leviathan than on the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ!

However, our people are not dumb, and will not be entangled in the cobweb knit by the oligarchic leadership. Our people remember very well who once directed the ecclesiastic symphonic orchestra in playing the funeral march!

Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath Renauld, who was born in the Gorgas Hospital, has been pro-American since he was born. He has been closely linked through his brothers with the nefarious and corrupt CIA; he has been charged with smuggling drugs into the country inside statues of saints. He is the same one whose car ran down Basilio Quinonez while he was walking on Balboa Avenue on the fateful night of 7 April 1979, and who did not hesitate one minute in using all the influence he could from his high position to avoid the law and go unpunished. Not satisfied with that, he declared that Quinonez was drunk. McGrath practically forced Msgr Clavel into exile so that he could become the "lord and master" of the ecclesiastic hierarchy in order to implement the nefarious plans dictated by Washington. He has always preferred foreign priests over nationals. He authorized a trip to the Philippines by Jesuit Priest Fernando Guardia so that the priest could learn the Empire's tricks and subterfuges and return to our shores expert in all the strategies of the low-intensity war and in implementing the destabilization plans ordered by the empire. McGrath continues to be the "invisible head" of a church politicized in favor of the upper class.

Therefore, we heard with horror the latest communique issued by the Panamanian Episcopal Conference, which was read by its spokesman Msgr Jose Luis Lacunza, auxiliary bishop of Panama who, coincidentally, is also a foreigner. Claiming to act "on behalf of the Panamanian people," once again he meddles in secular political affairs, which the Pope himself has said are off-limits to priests.

Nevertheless, and using Msgr Lacunza's own words, we must say we agree with him that "the Panamanian people's agony should not be extended any longer." The national government obviously has given more than sufficient evidence of a willingness to talk while the opposition, in a clear display of scorn toward the OAS members and the people, has interrupted the dialogue for the second consecutive time. Msgr Lacunza will have to agree with us that it is high time for the government to come up with the government formula to govern the country as of 1 September. We must remind the church hierarchy that neither a foreign power nor the church can force General Manuel Antonio Noriega to step down.

If such a demand is accepted, we the politicians should be able to demand that McGrath, Father Fernando Guardia, Father Vilanueva, or even the Pope himself, leave their posts. After all, we do not like, and it does not appear reasonable to us that, the Lord's temples are used as "political forums" in which, instead of worshiping God, the sectors that have always been marked by exploiting and subjugating the people are welcomed.

Would you, Msgr Lacunza, accept our shameless meddling in matters that are under the church's competence? If your answer is no, then, for the sake of God whom you invoke, refrain once and for all from meddling in the things that are of the sole competence of the secular world and our fellow countrymen!

Or is it that you, like Msgr Mcgrath, belong to the tripartite commission?

Plea Made To Schools To Prevent Violence

PA1408043189 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Statement by Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal—date and place not given]

[Text] I want to call on the community, especially the people directly involved with education, to exert themselves and contribute toward the normal operation of all schools and to prevent them from becoming centers of confrontation and violence, because this does not contribute toward an effective educational process. It only contributes to bringing sorrow, desperation, and anxiety to Panamanian families during times when we need to make a national effort to achieve peace and reconciliation among all Panamanians.

In those cases in which these conditions are not present and, for one reason or another, there are disturbances inside the schools, the Education Ministry will suspend classes and shut down the schools indefinitely.

Social Security Revenue Down by $22 Million

PA1308015689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 5 Aug 89 pp 2,14

[Summary] Francisco Sanchez Cardenas, Director General of the Social Security Institute has reported that the the institution's revenue fell off by $22 million last year due to the economic aggression by the U.S.

Sanchez said that the private sector had laid off many employees because of the economic aggression. He said that despite the difficult situation the government is facing, it has not laid off any employees.

IPSE Director Advocates More Non-U.S. Trade

PA1308041489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Luis Barletta, director of the Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute [IPCE], says that various areas of Panama's economy have been strengthened by the country's increased trade relations with the USSR.

[Begin Barletta recording] We must take advantage of treaties that have been available to us since 1965, which we failed to enforce, but instead filed away. These treaties must be revived and implemented. Thanks to the crisis—behind every dark cloud there is a silver lining—we are now able to take advantage of new alternatives, because we have great potential. This why the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, MICI [Commerce and Industries Ministry], and IPCE held a seminar-workshop at the Atlapa convention center, so that every exporter can take advantage of these new bilateral treaties with all the CEMA, [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] countries.

We must take advantage of all of these organizations and marketing groups, as we have already done in Central and South America, and in the EEC. There will be more alternatives. We must decrease our dependence on our traditional source—the U.S. market—and we are already doing this, thanks to the crisis. [end recording]

Argentina

Reportage on Pardon of Military Officers

Seineldin Attempts Meeting

PY1108133089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2110 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA)—On 6 August Colonel Mohamed Seineldin went to the Olivos Residence to meet President Carlos Menem, but he waited in vain for 5 hours because Menem arrived late from Bolivia, a press report has announced.

The report, which was published today in the Rosario newspaper LA CAPITAL, was confirmed by people close to Seineldin, who is being held at the Palermo military facilities.

According to the report, Seineldin was taken to Olivos to meet Menem, but could not meet him because the president arrived late in Argentina. Menem had traveled to Bolivia to attend Jaime Paz Zamora's inauguration.

The report added that "authorization had been requested from Army Commander General Isidro Caceres to take Seineldin to the Olivos Residence."

Sources from the so-called "painted faces" faction of the Army this afternoon reported that Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, who is in custody at the Campo de Mayo military prison, frequently goes to his house in the Belgrano neighborhood.

Rico has been under rigorous preventive imprisonment since the incidents at Monte Caseros in which he was involved. He cannot, therefore, leave the prison without special authorization from the Army chief of staff.

Seineldin and Rico are included in the list of military personnel who will soon retire as part of the measures adopted by the Defense Ministry to solve the conflicts within the Army.

These measures were virtually confirmed yesterday when Defense Minister Italo Luder said that "Lt Col Rico and Col Seineldin will retire either voluntarily or with persuasion."

Sources close to these two military officers this afternoon stated that "the officer corps will not allow the retirement of any of those who took part" in the acts of rebellion between the 1987 Easter holidays and December 1988.

Menem: Government Will Grant Pardon

PY1308211889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Aug 89 p 13

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) President Carlos Menem told foreign reporters that as of September his government will grant a pardon for military officers convicted of human rights violations as well as for former terrorists found guilty of such crimes.

The information was supplied by the NUEVO SUR daily, which attributed the report to one of the foreign journalists who took part in the meeting.

According to the article, Menem told the reporters that a pardon "will bring peace to Argentine spirits" and explained that it could be either selective or general.

Menem was also quoted as saying that the way in which the pardon is applied depends exclusively on the government, specifying also that it would include not only military officers and terrorists charged with human rights abuse here but also those living abroad, such as former Buenos Aires Governor Oscar Bidegain. The latter is 80 years old and "only wants to come to die in his country," said the report.

In separate statements, Menem confirmed yesterday that his predecessor in the post Raul Alfonsin "expressed his views on the military question" during the meeting they held last Friday, and specified that the opposition leader will favour a "selective pardon" for convicted officers although not a "general amnesty." However, he said Alfonsin did not "explicitly reject" the idea of a pardon.

"(Alfonsin) expressed his points of view on the country's situation, and I said my part. It was a very cordial meeting, we agreed on many things and there was practically no disagreement" said Menem.

He added that "I respect (Alfonsin's) thinking but what is most important is his decision to contribute to the consolidation of democracy and the growth of Argentina so that it may come out of this crisis."

Asked to comment on Alfonsin's argument that a pardon for the officers who took part in the Holy Week, Monte Caseros and Villa Martelli uprisings would "appear to grant victory to those who rose up against the chain of command," the president replied that "that is Alfonsin's view, which I respect, but I am not thoroughly decided on my own (view) which I will express later." [passage omitted]

Army Chief Agrees With Solution

PY1308231889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Aug 89 p 11

[Excerpt] Army Chief-of-Staff Isidro Caceres yesterday expressed his hope that a "definitive solution" to pending human rights trial against military officers will be found and underlined that the Army "is willing (to contribute to) reconciliation and to help pacify the nation."

The military chief carried out a fiery vindication of the fight against left-wing subversion in the 1970s, which "made it possible to preserve the national identity."

In a radio message sent to all units to mark the 15th anniversary of a guerrilla attack on the Villa Maria military factory, Caceres said that "I am addressing the Argentine Army to once again ratify the courage, stoicism and sacrifice of those who had the honour to fight on that occassion."

He recognized "a different feeling (in our ranks) today: the people of the Argentine nation which helped us in the war continues to ratify their confidence and respect for us."

The high military officer explained that "we are hopeful that there will be a definitive solution to the situation still endured by some of our men as a result of the trials to which they were subjected."

"This hope rests on the conviction that our people—in whom sovereignty naturally resides—have recognized the effort and sacrifice of the men and women of our Armed and Security Forces."

Caceres and other high ranking Army leaders yesterday handed [Defense Minister Italo] Luder and Defense Secretary Humberto Romero a detailed report of the Army's programme of operations until the end of the year as well as its plans for 1990.

The briefing marked the end of two days of talks held by the most senior generals of the force, in which the human rights trials were one of the main subjects discussed.

In this respect, Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde said yesterday that "history will prove the president right" in his decision to grant a pardon to convicted officers.

He justified this opinion by saying that "our republic cannot have new military rebellions such as "those which took place within the last two years" in reference to three Army uprisings. [passage omitted]

President Menem Speaks at Agriculture Fair

PY1208214689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1856 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (TELAM)—This afternoon, President Carlos Menem declared that the "era of restoring the value of agricultural activities in Argentina" has begun. At the same time he announced that the Central Bank will decrease the percentage of dollars withheld on the export of various agricultural products, and he asked rural producers "to substantially increase the area of cultivated land for the next harvest season."

Menem stressed his government's decision to reduce the percentage of dollars withheld on the exports of agricultural products, "to 18 percent for corn, sunflower seeds, peanuts, beans, and cotton; to 21 percent for soybeans and their by-products; to 25 percent for sorghum; and to 28 percent for rice."

The president made those remarks this afternoon in a speech while officially inaugurating the 103d Agricultrual, Livestock, and Industrial Fair on the grounds of the Argentine Rural Society in Palermo. National authorities, foreign diplomats, legislators, and representatives of agricultural producers and livestock breeders heard his speech.

Menem also said that he had decided "to lower customs duties on agricultural chemicals from 5 to 10 percent." He also pointed out that "conditions have now been established for increasing production, filling the silos with grain, and causing the Central Bank to overflow with foreign exchange."

He added: "I therefore call on all the nation's producers to increase the area of cultivated land for the next harvest season. The challenge is to increase the land cultivated in previous years by 20-percent," he emphasized.

"I am fully aware of what I am asking for, but I can assure you that your effort will not be in vain. This effort will act as a starter to activate our productive apparatus," Menem stressed.

In a 30-minute speech, interrupted on several occasions by applause, the head of state affirmed that in recent years Argentina had implemented "a foreign trade policy at variance with the requirements of the present times," as a result of which "Argentine rural producers have been among the least protected in the world."

"This has ended," Menem emphasized, and then he added: "The future of Argentina lies in its cultivated fields. So, the rural producers need no special treatment, but rather to return to them what has been taken away "through foreign exchange controls, customs fees, and other restraints on exports."

Addressing people engaged in agricultural activities, Menem said: "Instead of making promises, I ask you to help me turn around and raise the Argentine economy," so that "the humiliation of millions of people going hungry and lacking basic necessities in this country of wheat and cattle" can be redressed.

President Menem also called on the rural sector to make a "commitment to production and work that will make us proud forever." Then he stated that rural activities are "a unique lever of the productive revolutions."

Government 'Awaiting' British Reply To Talks

PY1208003389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2238 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] United Nations, 11 Aug (EFE)—New Argentine ambassador to the United Nations Jorge Vazquez today said that his government is awaiting an answer from Britain to President Carlos Saul Menem's offer to resume a direct dialogue leading to restablishment of diplomatic relations.

After presenting his credentials to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Argentine diplomat said that he expects that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will answer promptly because "she is a good English woman and very intelligent."

Vazquez, who was a political prisoner under the Argentine military regime from 1976 to 1981, said that he has not been instructed to meet with the United Kingdom ambassador to the United Nations, Crispin Tickell, as the British media reported last week.

He did not dismiss, however, that such a meeting might take place. He said that he will let the international community know of his country's wish to negotiate, and will express that wish to the Decolonization Committee when it meets next Tuesday to discuss the matter.

Vazquez said: "The British know the channels through which they can officially communicate with us to give an answer," thus alluding to the embassies of Brazil and Switzerland which have been representing Argentine and British interests in London and Buenos Aires, respectively, since the two countries broke diplomatic relations in 1982.

The Argentine ambassador revealed that he expressed to Perez de Cuellar his recognition for the efforts made on behalf of Argentina during the conflict over the Malvinas Island's sovereignty, and that he hoped the manifested will of the Argentine president to talk "would be echoed."

The Malvinas War was waged between April and June 1982, following Argentina's invasion of the archipelago where it was defeated by the British after a bloody confrontation.

Foreign Minister on Falklands

PY1308223089 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Aug 89 pp 1, 11

[By Joe Schneider]

[Text] Argentina is working toward taking a "significant leap forward" in re-establishing bilateral relations with Britain, said Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo yesterday.

In a brisk, informal 40-minute ping-pong session with the foreign press—his first such conference since taking office— Cavallo fielded wide-ranging questions on the Malvinas and also touched on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, missile sales, the Non-Aligned Movement, foreign debt, Central America and the (Economy Minister Nestor) Rapanelli affair.

Cavallo said it was "premature" to talk about direct talks between the Argentine and British delegations during the upcoming UN General Assembly. He reiterated that both sides are willing to negotiate to establish direct talks but "they take time in order to guarantee a reasonable possibility for success."

Asked whether Argentina has reached a decision on calling for a vote on the Malvinas Resolution this year, or would leave it to a Group of 24 proposal in the Commission on Decolonization, Cavallo said that "on one hand, the commission will deal with the issue next week. On the other, the resolution is already on the General Assembly agenda. Whether or not it is called to a vote will depend on progress made toward negotiations."

In reply to whether Argentina still conditions declaring a cease-fire to Britain lifting the Exclusion Zone, or whether there might be a unilateral cease-fire declaration, the minister said: "It is important that the next stage eliminate all traces of the conflict. We would have no problem declaring a formal cease-fire. But rather than a unilateral measure, we are striving for a set of measures from both parties which allow for a leap forward in bilateral relations."

Cavallo admitted that a key to future negotiations is defining precisely what is meant by an "umbrella" over the sovereignty issue, saying that "at present there is an interchange of ideas which will only be transformed into concrete facts when they are put down in black and white. But we're not at that stage yet."

Queried whether renewing ties must come about simultaneously with a fishing accord, he responded: "Once there's dialogue it will be possible to deal with questions such as the depredation of fishing resources which we believe is harmful to both countries. We're optimistic about this, but cannot say how fast those accords will be drawn up."

At the time Cavallo said that Argentina does not use the term "left aside" when asked about putting the question of sovereignty on the back-burner in order to tackle the fisheries problem. Instead, "we speak of advancing on all fronts while reserving our rights on sovereignty. One stand does not negate the other. Not all bilateral issues can be resolved until progress is made in establishing dialogue and diplomatic contact. [no closing quotation marks as published]

In answer to whether Argentina would renew fishing licences granted to Bulgaria and the Soviet Union when they expire, Cavallo anticipated: "Right now we are working on legislation to establish clear administrative rules on the use and exploitation of fish reserves in our exclusion zone. In that respect there will be equal opportunity for all the interested parties."

Regarding President Carlos Menem's upcoming August 22-24 trip to Brazil where he is scheduled to sign aeronautical and nuclear technological accords with host President Jose Sarney, Cavallo shrugged off concern that both countries possessing missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads implied the risk of nuclear proliferation.

"Both countries have consistently stressed our vocation to use that knowledge for strictly peaceful purposes." Cavallo said he believed the concern expressed by other nations "is due to lack of information and transparency," and pledged that together with Brazil and the rest of Latin America Argentina would strive to guarantee "adequate safeguards" which could lead to modifying the Tlatelolco Treay on non-proliferation.

He also denied reports coming from Budapest that Argentina had or intends to sell Condor missiles to Hungary.

In the light of the upcoming meeting of the Non-Alignment Movement in Belgrade, Cavallo said that Argentina's position had not changed so much but rather the world had changed. "A world showing new signs of change and growth invites the Non-Aligned countries to search for new forms of intergration and participation. That is our position," he said.

He also said that Argentina had no intention to seek specific debt strategies through the Group of 8, pointing out that there is a free flow of ideas between the member states but for now each country will pursue debt negotiations individually.

In reference to the conflictive situations in Central America, Cavallo said that Argentina favoured all steps which promote peace in the region and believed the best solutions are those worked out by the Central American states themselves.

Finally, asked whether Rapanelli's indictment in the overbilling scandal in Venezuela could effect Argentine-Venezuelan relations, Cavallo replied that the case is in the courts. "But we believe in his innocence and have full confidence that he will be acquitted," adding that he felt the issue was being "blown up out of all proportion."

Foreign Minister on Status of Foreign Debt

PY1408034889 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Aug 89 p 5

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has revealed that Argentina has accumulated $4.4 billion in overdue foreign debt payments.

The minister said: "Right now Argentina has accumulated $4.4 billion in overdue foreign debt payments."

Argentina has a foreign debt of $60 billion, and it has not been getting any loans from commercial bank since April of last year, when Argentina quit making interest payments.

Speaking to foreign newsmen, Cavallo said that Italy has donated $90 million to Argentina, and it has also granted a $60-million loan for social emergency projects.

Cavallo added that Italy is ready to participate in a bridge loan, provided Argentina can obtain financial assistance from international organizations. [passage omitted]

Cavallo: Caputo Engaged in Self-Promotion

PY1408001089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1815 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Aug (NA)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has charged his predecessor Dante Caputo with conducting a policy aimed at "pursuing prestige, not for Argentina, but for key figures in the Alfonsin administration."

Referring to Caputo and Alfonsin specifically, Cavallo said: "Too much effort was spent in making the president and the foreign minister look good in the eyes of the world."

Cavallo added: "Naturally we would be happy to see that President Menem's image is positive and that he is appreciated. Nonetheless, we will not concentrate our efforts on that. Our main objective is to make Argentina known abroad as a serious country."

Cavallo pointed out: "The Malvinas Islands issue will always be part of our agenda because it is definitely a national priority."

"We can discuss, however, the means we must adopt to defend our sovereign rights. We believe that the only way to deal with issues is to seek a negotiated solution through talks, and to reestablish ties between the Argentines and the people who live on the Malvinas Islands similar to those we had before the 1982 war."

In an article published today by the morning paper EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL, Cavallo said: "The Justicialist Party will always praise the courage of those who

shed their blood to defend our sovereignty over the islands, although we can discuss whether they were right in taking the islands and trying to hold onto them."

"We want to erase all vestiges of the 1982 conflict within a short time and to normalize our relations with the United Kingdom, as long as we can agree on a way to protect our sovereign rights over the islands," he stressed.

Cavallo said that Argentine Government believes it is possible to solve the problem "quickly." He added, however: "A swift solution does not depend on us alone, and we are not willing to accept a solution that is not in our interests. We are, therefore more willing to work for a solution than to announce deadlines for one."

Cavallo said Argentina will continue to have a "neutral position regarding other countries' conflicts, and to adopt a policy of not interfering in the domestic affairs of other countries while fully respecting the sovereign will of the people. These principles will continue to be permanent features of our foreign policy."

Asked about Argentine participation in the Nonaligned Movement, Cavallo said: "For the time being we are part of the Third World, but we aspire to more progress."

Tlatelolco, Other Treaties Will Not Be Ratified

PY1108164089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2250 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA)—Mario Campora, secretary for Multilateral and Special Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, reaffirmed today that Argentina will not ratify the Tlatelolco Treaty, nor will it sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (TNP), and he highlighted the peaceful goals of the Argentine nuclear program.

During a news conference at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Campora was asked about a press report indicating that the government was studying the possibility of signing the Tlatelolco Treaty, to which he replied that "there are no changes in Argentina's traditional position," and he stressed that the Justicialist Party's platform is "very explicit in this respect."

He stated that the Peronist election platform stressed the continuation of "Argentina's independent program, and it did not promote the ratification of those treaties."

Asked about the importance of the visit of Richard Kennedy, U.S. ambassador for nonproliferation policy , who will arrive next week, Campora said that "the tendency regarding relations on nuclear matters is becoming more and more positive."

He reiterated that Argentina believes that the TNP contains "an obstacle to the independent nuclear programs of developing countries."

He said that "as an alternative to nonproliferation control we are proposing much closer cooperation with Brazil." He maintained that replacing Argentine-Brazilian rivalry with cooperation gives "us the best safeguard against nuclear proliferation," and the development of nuclear technology for military use.

He also stated that during President Carlos Menem's visit to Brazil from 22, to 24 August, annexes to the Nuclear Cooperation Protocols will be signed. Private Argentine enterprises will thereby be able to participate in the construction of the Angra II nuclear plant with an investment of approximately $15 million, while Brazilian enterprises will participate in the construction of Atucha II.

Ubaldini Leadership Ratified, Labour Still Split

PY1308225889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Aug 89 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) The General Labour Confederation (CGT) Central Confederal Committee yesterday ratified Saul Ubaldini as CGT secretary-general, said the union sector's political debate "should be channelled through the 62 Organizations" and asked national authorities for "institutional participation of the labour movement" in government affairs, especially the productive revolution and the social pact.

Only delegates from the dwindling number of unions which back Ubaldini turned up for the Confederal Committee, which was boycotted by the powerful pro-governnment Union Liaison Board.

Committee talks started after failed negotiation attempts between Board leaders, on the one side, and Ubaldini and 62 Organizations leader Lorenzo Miguel, on the other. The latter, joined by Victor de Gennaro (ATE [Association of State Workers] state workers) and Ricardo Perez (truck drivers), waited in vain for two hours at the premises of Insurance Co-operative Institute - where the preliminary talks were to be held - for the arrival of Liaison Board delegates.

However the Board leaders huddled at the Labour Ministry while Carlos Alderete, Oscar Lescano, Andres Mancuso and Juan Zanuzzi - all Light and Power union leaders - acted as mediators.

Eventually Ubaldini and Miguel returned to CGT headquarters and opened the Confederal debate with representatives of some 72 unions, including UOM [Metalworkers Union], metal workers, SUPE [United Trade Union of State Petroleum Workers] oil workers, CTERA [Confederation of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic] teachers, food workers, state waterworks staff and truck drivers.

The CGT entity proposed the creation of a joint labour-government "permanent co-ordination committee, via the Labour Ministry, in order to "closely follow the socio-economic measures and their impact on the critical situation of workers."

During the meeting, Ubaldini warned "you cannot go about holding meetings against the CGT in a ministry created by (the late president Juan) Peron."

He also indirectly slammed restaurant workers union leader Luis Barrionuevo, head of the INOS [National Institute of Social Projects] social welfare fund institute, saying "you can't fool around with the money of the social welfare funds because that's not what (President Carlos) Menem appointed them (INOS officials) for."

The CGT chief also scoffed at the Liaison Board's intention to become "the political arm of the labour movement," stressing "nothing and nobody could possibly change the workers' framework for political discussion which are the glorious 62 Organizations."

Paint workers leader Pedro Zambeletti argued that the Confederal gives Ubaldini authorization to "appoint the directive council" of the CGT, which would entail removing some of its members but close Ubaldini supporters ruled out this possibility. Eight of the 20 CGT directive council members showed up for the talks.

Afterwards, several Ubaldini supporters voiced satisfaction with having obtained quorum for Confederal debate and pointed out that "the next step" in the labour leadership crisis should be taken by the Liaison Board in its meeting next Thurday.

Earlier in the day, Miguel said that CGT's decision-making bodies could not be held responsible for a possible split in the umbrella labour grouping as any such decision "surpasses them."

"If there are colleagues in some organizations who want to divide the labour movement, this is a problem beyond the scope of the Central Confederal Committee," he said.

In separate labour developments, all the delegates attending FOETRA [Federation of Telephone Workers of the Argentine Republic] phone workers union's general congress yesterday decided to "support the reorganization and business transformation" of ENTel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] state telephone company, "aimed at bringing in national or interantional private capital."

DYN Personnel Enter 2d Day of Strike

PY1208154089 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1236 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (DYN)—Personnel of the DIARIOS Y NOTICIAS (DYN) news agency, who for 1 week have been implementing direct measures to demand better salaries, today entered their 2d day of total stoppage after deciding at a personnel meeting last night not to obey an official order to return to work.

The news and photographic services are now being handled by management personnel.

The DYN personnel rejected a 145-percent increase based on June salaries, which have already been paid by the agency, and they also refused to pay the proportional discount on the emergency salary advance they received through a government decree, a sum they say should be incorporated into their salaries.

The dissident measures started last week with a series of meetings and stoppages by shifts; they intensified as of 9 August.

As of 1200 on 11 August personnel decided on a total stoppage. The Labor Ministry called in the parties in the afternoon and ordered the workers to return to work, but they decided not to obey the official order, alleging that the company had paid incorrect salaries and calling the discount of half the emergency salary advance illegal.

The company rejected these charges after indicating that there has been a very long delay in the meeting of the management-personnel salary negotiating board of the union, which had decided to grant the 145-percent increase and which has to decide on the final new wage scale and the final results of the negotiations.

Foreign Ships Caught Fishing Illegally

PY1108170689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0053 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (TELAM)—The Argentine Coast Guard today reported that it detained two foreign fishing ships illegally sailing in Argentine waters.

One of them is the Norwegian fishing ship "Seabay Alpha," which was detected at 43 degrees, 53 seconds latitude south, and 63 degrees, 15 seconds longitude west, 86 nautical miles southeast of Rawson, Chubut Province. The ship was spotted by a Coast Guard PA-61 plane, which immediately alerted the Coast Guard ship "GC-26 Thompson," which was navigating on the southern Argentine Sea.

The "Thompson" escorted the Norwegian ship to Puerto Madryn, to place it at the disposal of the court. Federal Judge Jorge Ferro, from Mar del Plata, soon arrived at the port.

[Passage indistinct] then authorized the 2,430-ton ship, which had a crew of 33 and a 76,146-kg cargo, to sail to the port of Buenos Aires, where it will remain in custody without authorization to unload until a new court order is issued. The ship is supposed to arrive in Buenos Aires at 1000 on 12 August.

Meanwhile, a Spanish factory ship called "Faro Hercules" was intercepted by the Coast Guard ship "GC-24 Mantilla," at 41 degrees, 42 minutes, 6 seconds latitude south, and 57 degrees, 44 minutes, 8 seconds longitude west, 193.4 nautical miles south of Faro Quequen.

According to the Coast Guard, experts from the "Mantilla" inspected the Spanish ship and verified from its fishing charts that it had been fishing in the exclusive fishing zone. Since the captain acknowledged this action, the prefecture officers drew up a certificate of violation of fishing rights.

The precedure was carried out under the presence of Alfredo Becerra, Senate Fishing Committee secretary, on board the "Mantilla."

Once the inspection was over, the Spanish ship was escorted to Puerto Madryn, where the appropriate lawsuits were filed according to the National Fishing Law No 17,500.

The Argentine Coast Guard reported that the Spanish ship's cargo of 8,000 tons of frozen pink hake, brotulid, and ray were confiscated.

Bolivia

Special Nicaraguan Envoy Attends Inauguration

PY1108183189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Aug 89 p 7

[Excerpts] Special Nicaraguan envoy Hugo Rodriguez has told PRESENCIA that the Bolivian people should continue to consolidate their democracy with independence and with sovereignty. Rodriguez thus conveyed a friendly Nicaraguan greeting to Bolivia on its national day and on the occasion of the democratic event which Bolivia is now living.

The Nicaraguan envoy came to Bolivia to attend the Bolivian presidential inauguration. He said that Nicaragua has made a sacrifice which will contribute to the establishment of peace and democracy in Central America, respect among nations, and self-determination. [passage omitted]

Concerning the democratic process in Nicaragua, Rodriguez said that the distorted reports which are disseminated in this part of the continent have sought to depict Nicaragua as a country in which there is no democracy. He stressed that the victory of the revolution led by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) on 19 July 1979 has allowed Nicaragua to live an authentic democracy.

"The United States obviously wants a type of democracy that will not question its system of injustices. Nicaragua, however, has built a popular democracy that has been questioned by the U.S. Government and by its representatives in Nicaragua," Rodriguez explained.

Rodriguez added that "the United States sponsored a series of destabilizing measures that started an undeclared war on the people and on the revolutionary government in an effort to harm the Nicaraguan revolution."

Approximately 66,000 people have died during this war. "If we take into account that Nicaragua has a population of 3 million, and if we compare the number of casualties, it is equivalent to the population of the state of Virginia," Rodriguez concluded.

Paz Zamora Demands Armed Forces Loyalty

PY1108190989 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] During his first address to the Armed Forces, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora yesterday demanded their loyalty in order to preserve the democratic system within a climate of confidence between politicians and military men.

In an impromptu speech during the flag swearing ceremony to celebrate the anniversary of the Armed Forces, Paz Zamora said; "In my capacity as the president of the Republic and Captain General, I demand your unconditional loyalty." He announced that he will respect the military "chain of command."

Members of the military High Command, Vice President Luis Ossio Sanjinez, Aeronautics Minister Luis Gonzales, Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco, Defense Minister Hector Ormachea, National Democratic Action president Hugo Banzer, and other special guests attended the ceremony that was held at the Gualberto Villaroel Military College, in La Paz.

Paz Zamora reviewed the La Paz garrison, which is headquartered at the military college, and took the traditional oath.

The new chief of state, who was sworn in last Sunday, 6 August, received the military honors from the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, General Edwin Peredo.

Gen Peredo said that he hoped the new captain general would respect the military hierarchy.

In his speech Paz Zamora said that he will "strictly respect the hierarchy and regulations of our military institution" and promised the government's support in strengthening the Armed Forces according to the nation's economic possibilities.

Affirming the loyalty of the Armed Forces to the democratic institutions, Gen Peredo made an appeal for national unity.

Gen Peredo said: "May the overall behavior be one of sensible, reciprocal, and deep respect among all Bolivian citizens toward the republican institutions."

President Rules Out Major Economic Changes

PY1108184589 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Aug 89 p 4

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora yesterday said that "all Bolivians can rest assured that there will be no economic package."

During a news conference at Government House yesterday, the president said that "there is no reason for concern. The government will continue to implement the existing policies."

The remarks by Paz Zamora were reiterated by his main advisers in the economic area who said that economic stability will be maintained on the basis of fiscal and monetary discipline.

Paz Zamora recalled that over the past few years, Bolivians have become accustomed to the fact that "each new administration introduces its own economic package."

"I want to tell you," he went on, "that this government has no package at all and that we should change our approach to our political life. Packages have disappeared as a result of our democratic, economic, and financial stability."

Bolivia's democratic and economic normalcy obviates traumatic government changeovers, "and Bolivians should begin to understand the value and the importance of continuity," he added.

Paz Zamora concluded by saying that necessary adjustments will be made, and that these adjustments will focus on economic growth and social development.

Defense Minister on Budget, Chain of Command

PY1108185689 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Aug 89 p 5

[Text] Defense Minister Hector Ormachea yesterday stressed the importance of maintaining continuity within the Armed Forces and supplying them with all the material they require.

The minister refused either to confirm or to deny rumors of an alleged change in the military chain of command.

The minister attended a ceremony at which members of the "Gualberto Villarroel" Military School pledged their allegiance to the flag.

Ormachea said that it is necessary that the Armed Forces continue the sacrifices made during the last 2 years, and perhaps to intensify them, in order to contribute to national development, especially in distant and depressed regions.

After assuming his post as defense minister today, Ormachea said he will meet with the military high command.

Ormachea stressed the need to respect the Armed Forces chain of command "so that the Armed Forces can continue as the most solid support of our democratic process."

The Armed Forces budget will have to be adjusted to our national budget and to our national economic restrictions, and we will try to administer better our scarce national resources, Ormachea said.

He added that equipping the Armed Forces will depend on the resources of the National Treasury, but that he intends for Bolivian soldiers to be well fed, dressed, and armed, so that they may work well for the Armed Forces and for national development.

Chile

Cabinet Members Resign at Pinochet's Request

PY1108181689 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1752 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Relay from Government Palace by Eliana Henriquez]

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet has requested that all his ministers of state resign. These resignations were tendered in a document signed by each minister and delivered to Carlos Caceres, the chief of the cabinet.

This information was disclosed by Minister Secretary General of Government Oscar Vargas, who has also resigned, at the end of a council of ministers meeting.

Vargas noted that the new cabinet will be sworn in on Wednesday, 16 August, at 1800.

The following ministers have resigned in order to run as candidates for senator during the upcoming elections: Labor Minister Guillermo Arthur, who plans to represent the Eighth Region, and Public Works Minister Bruno Siebert, who intends to represent the Tenth Region.

Economy Minister Pablo Baraona will probably also run for a seat in Congress.

Minister Vargas also said that during the meeting they had discussed the public mood, and he asserted that the country is calm, with the exception of the terrorist actions being carried out by the Lautaro Movement. [passage omitted]

Center-Right Organizes for Coming Elections

Buchi To Represent Alliance

PY1108115689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Hernan Buchi will be the presidential candidate of the center-right alliance, which is made up of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI), the National Renewal Party (PARENA), and other independent sectors. Buchi himself made the announcement:

[Begin Buchi recording] We were able to reach the type of agreement we wanted. We are going to have a common program, and we will act together in the upcoming elections. We will win the presidential election because we have the best ideas and because we are united. [end recording]

The agreement to name Buchi as the presidential candidate was reached after 4 hours of intense negotiations. These negotiations, which were held at Ricardo Rivadeneira's house at 11300 Las Vinas Street, were attended by Hernan Buchi, Sergio Onofre Jarpa, Andres Allamand, Sebastian Pinera, Cristian Larroulet, Pablo Baraona, and Juan Luis Ossa. Buchi stressed the support of PARENA and other political parties for his political campaign. [passage omitted]

Jarpa, Buchi Comment on Pact

PY1108160089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Sergio Onofre Jarpa and the National Renewal Party [PRN] have officially supported Hernan Buchi Buc's presidential candidacy and proclaimed him the presidential candidate of the center-right pact.

[Begin Jarpa recording] Giving special importance to the unity of the center-right sector in the upcoming elections, and in view of the responsibility bestowed upon me by the PRN General Council, I announce PRN support of Hernan Buchi's presidential candidacy. I make this announcement after detailed analysis, and I am aware that it will ensure the future of Chile. I know that by doing so I am expressing the patriotic concern of all PRN leaders, members, and supporters. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Buchi emphasized the contribution the PRN, together with the other parties of the pact, will make to his campaign.

[Begin recording] [Buchi] The experience of the PRN people will help in the campaign activities.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Buchi] You already know that Rivadeneira will have fundamental participation as the coordinator and final drafter of the programs.

[Reporter] Who will advise in the supervision and conduct of the campaign itself?

[Buchi] You will eventually be informed. In a presidential and congressional campaign, each party and the independent candidates have their own characteristics. Nonetheless, we have already agreed to act in a united manner. [end recording]

Buchi especially emphasized that the most important thing now is to work together, in a united manner. He added that unity has already been achieved, because the most representative parties have already agreed to support his candidacy.

Sergio Onofre Jarpa repeated that Buchi will be supported by the center-right pact, that the members of the pact will help in the former minister's campaign throughout the country, and that pending issues will continue to be discussed.

[Begin Jarpa recording] We will continue to discuss several pending matters, as well as the issue of how to organize the campaign in the regions and provinces. We are also getting ready to register our list of candidates for the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. They will also take part in this electoral campaign. [end recording]

The center-right pact will register its candidates for the Chamber of Deputies today, and will register the candidates for the Senate later.

Jarpa explained that support for Buchi's candidacy was agreed upon by the Independent Democratic Union, the PRN, and many members of the independent sector. Jarpa also said that other political parties may join the pact later on. He added that the deadline for the National Party to join the pact is today.

Independent Coalition Named

PY1208141989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The independent center-right coalition will bear the name Democracy and Progress [Democracia y Progreso] for the 14 December congressional elections. This was reported by National Renewal Party Secretary General Andres Allamand. Allamand described this group as the great party of the center-right sector. [passage omitted]

Further on 1990-94 Election Period Positioning

Regime Refuses To Lift Ban

PY1108144489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0128 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Santiago, 10 Aug (EFE)—General Augusto Pinochet's military regime today refused to lift the ban prohibiting eight opposition political and union leaders from running as candidates in the December congressional elections.

Enrique Silva Cimma, spokesman of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy (CPPD), asked Interior Minister Carlos Caceres that the government not try the eight opposition leaders, so that they could run as candidates in the 14 December congressional elections.

Among those affected by this measure is the former foreign minister and current general secretary of one of the Socialist Party factions, Clodomiro Almeyda, who has been stripped of his political rights for a 10-year period.

The others include Felipe Sandoval, president of the Christian Democratic Youth, charged with "offending the Carabineros"; Oscar Guillermo Garreton, vice president of the Party for Democracy, who is being tried for "subversion within the Navy" in 1973; and German Correa, under secretary of the Socialist Party.

Union leaders Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez, president and vice president, respectively of the Central Labor Union (CUT), who were sentenced to 541 days banishment last September, are also affected by this ban.

The last two cases are those of Jose Sanfuentes, spokesman of the illegal Communist Party, and Jose Santos Millao, leader of the Mapuche Indian tribe.

Enrique Silva Cimma, spokesman of the opposition and president of the Radical Party, said that he will hold a news conference on Friday, 11 August, to comment on the government's refusal.

Leftist Parties Register Pact

PY1008185489 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] PAIS [Broad Party of the Socialist Left] President Luis Maira and Radical Socialist Democratic Party President Hugo Miranda this morning registered their parties' pact for ideological affinity and congressional accord at the electoral service. The documents were registered by Electoral Service Director Juan Ignacio Garcia. The pact's ticket, which includes 34 candidates for seats in the Chamber of Deputies, is for the most part made up of Communist Party members. The ticket also includes independent leaders of the Party for Democracy and of the Radical Party. The pact includes candidates who have trials pending, such as Mireya Baltra, Jose Sanfuentes, Guillermo Sherping, and (Jose Santos Millao).

Four 'Definite' Candidates Listed

PY1208153689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] There are four definite candidates attempting to gain the presidency. Hernan Buchi, Patricio Aylwin, Francisco Javier Errazuriz, and Fernando Monckeberg will battle for the presidency for the 1990-94 period.

Talks With Peruvian High Command Concluded

PY1208155189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] The fourth round of talks among members of the Chilean and Peruvian Armed Forces high commands has ended at the Diego Portales Building.

The talks, hosted by Chile this year, are designed to increase mutual confidence and to develop a security policy within the framework of the South American Continent that will correspond to the strong friendship and growing cooperation between the two countries.

The increasing personal relationships among members of the respective high commands attending the meetings represents an important step in this direction.

The agreements achieved, which were not disclosed to the media, will introduce communications between the armed forces of the two countries and improve on the rules governing the rounds of talks.

The fifth conference will be held next year in Lima, Peru.

Bomb Explodes at Cardiomovil in Rancagua

PY1108173689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 Aug 89

[By Rodolfo Munoz from Rancagua]

[Text] The facade of the (Cardiomovil) Building, at 30 Buena Street in Rancangua, was damaged by a bomb. According to a report made to Radio Nacional press division in Rancagua by (Cardiomovil) manager Cristian Caceres, two bombs were planted. One of the bombs was deactivated, but the other caused a great deal of damage in the (Cardiomovil) offices. A large quantity of medicine was destroyed and a computer was badly damaged. Most of the window panes in the neighborhood were broken.

(Cardiomovil) services, however, will continue to be rendered to those who may need it, the manager added.

Suspension of Reduced Television Planned

PY1108191289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Aug 89

[By Eliana Enriquez]

[Excerpts] After meeting with Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, (Sebastian Bernstein)—executive secretary of the National Energy Commission—reported that the shortened television broadcasting schedule, which had been in effect on weekends, will be suspended beginning 14 August, and that the schedule will be extended to midnight during weekdays.

(Bernstein) said the rains that have been falling since mid-July put an end to the worst phase of the electricity shortage. [passage omitted]

(Berstein) said the measures adopted to reduce electricity consumption will continue to be implemented during August. These measures forecast a different reduction scale for each industrial consumer, similar to the scale implemented in July. [passage omitted]

The subway schedule will become a little more flexible, and the restrictions on productive sector activities will be suspended in September. Street lights and the lights used monuments will continue at the reduced level. The public offices will continue to save energy, and the distribution network will continue to use a reduced voltage. (Bernstein) explained that, thanks to these measures, consumption will be reduced by some 5 percent.

Colombia

Reportage on Panama Opposition's Visit

Meeting With President Barco

PA1108152089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Report by Diana Sofia Giraldo—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Panamanian Vice Presidents-Elect Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford met with President Barco today. Following the meeting they talked with the media and referred to the latest military skirmishes that the United States carried out yesterday on Panamanian territory and the dangerous incidents between the two Armies—which almost set off a war yesterday.

President Barco told the Panamanian opposition members that the Colombian Government supports the OAS' mediation and the search for democracy in the neighboring country. Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, members of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] in Panama, said that they had not specifically come to request Colombia's support, but to discuss the proposal they presented to the OAS for a plebiscite in their country. According to Arias Calderon, the Panamanian people would be able to vote on 20 August and decide whether they want to continue under General Manuel Antonio Noriega's dictatorship or recognize the government of Guillermo Endara, who got the majority of the votes in the 7 May elections.

[Arias] "We found that President Barco and Foreign Minister Julio Londono are fully aware of the situation being endured by the Panamanian people, and they are fully committed to the achievement of democracy in our country."

Ricardo Arias talked about the critical situation which prevails in his country given the U.S. military maneuvers on Panamanian territory, and the continuous incidents with Gen Noriega's forces. He said that the Panamanians should not have to choose between an intervention and a dictatorship.

[Arias] "We reject both things, and we reassert our pledge of forging a future of national sovereignty for the people."

Panama continues to experience a tense atmosphere despite the OAS' mediation, given the latest incidents between the U.S. and Panamanian Armies.

Fear Arrest Upon Return

PA1208004989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0004 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 11 Aug (AFP)—Panamanian opposition leaders Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, who ended a visit to Colombia today, expressed fear of returning to their country because they believe they might be arrested when they arrive at Panama City's Omar Torrijos International Airport.

Arias and Ford left for their country after visiting Venezuela, Peru, and Colombia to brief the presidents of those countries on Panama's political crisis.

"We admit that we are afraid, but this does not mean we will abandon our struggle," the vice presidential candidates of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) said.

They also warned that if anything happens to them, "the Panamanian people will pick up the banners of the opposition and continue the struggle until they end the infamous dictatorship."

To explain their fears, they said that the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega "is being isolated internationally so it is trying to intimidate all those who represent opposition or dissent with the government."

They also charged that Noriega "is laying the groundwork to consolidate the dictatorship and to end any possibility of democracy for the Panamanian people."

Londono on Panama Solution

PA1308170889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1609 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 13 Aug (DPA)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes said in Bogota today that Colombia hopes the Panamanian crisis can be overcome "provided the people's will and the principle of nonintervention in its domestic affairs are respected."

Londono told the radio network Caracol: "Colombia is not participating in Panama's conflict, but we are concerned over the situation because of the strong historic ties between the two countries."

According to Londono, the important thing about Panama's problem is that "formulas have been proposed by the government, the opposition, and the OAS," whose permanent council will meet on 23 August to adopt a stance regarding the conflict.

Expressing optimism that "a consensus can be reached" at the OAS meeting, the foreign minister said: "Such opinions can be voiced right at the negotiating table. This was previously almost impossible."

Panamanian opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon, who met with Colombian, Peruvian, and Venezuelan presidents and politicians during his visit to several South American countries, has said in Panama City that the presidents and leaders he talked with "think the crisis can be resolved only if General Manuel Antonio Noriega steps down."

Londono said, however, that he has nothing to say about Noriega staying as Panama Defense Forces Commander. The minister finally said: "Colombia expects the crisis to be overcome provided the Panamanian people's will and the noinintervention principle are both respected."

New 'Ultra-Rightist' Party MORENA Formed

PA1208190289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1658 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 11 August (DPA)— The Colombian National Renewal Movement's (MORENA) [Movimiento de Restauracion Nacional] basic postulates are to struggle against communism, agrarian reform, and extradition treaties with foreign countries. This ultra-rightist group was recently formed and several Colombian sectors have stated that MORENA is the "political arm" of the paramilitary units financed by drug traffickers.

MORENA Leader Armando Valenzuela Ruiz stated that the group was formed because it was [illegible] "unmask (?Colombian) Communists" who he said were to blame for all the country's present problems.

MORENA was proclaimed a political party after a meeting held over the past weekend by approximately 5,000 peasants who are members of so-called "self-defense groups." These groups assert that they combat guerrillas.

Investigations of these organizations by the Colombian secret police, however, indicate that they are really rightist paramilitary groups financed by drug-trafficking mafias. These mafias operate in a very large region within Colombia: the mid-Magadalena river region.

According to Valenzuela Ruiz, who is also a university professor with 50 years of experience, the two traditional Colombian parties—the governing Liberal Party and the opposition Social Conservative Party—"are intimidated" as they have not had "enough courage to confront communism."

MORENA will be identified with a blue and red flag with a crucifix in the center. In addition to its basic postulate of combating "any leftist tendency," it will also strongly oppose an agrarian reform that would give land to the peasants, as well as the signing of extradition treaties by the government, especially those related to the struggle against drug trafficking.

Since the party was proclaimed, several Colombian political sectors have stated that for MORENA to operate publicly it necessarily has to separate itself totally from any armed movement in the country.

A Patriotic Union spokesman , the biggest leftist force in the country , has indicated that the formation of this ultra-rightist party is nothing but the legalization of violence with a political goal and with the backing of drug- trafficking mafias.

Valenzuela Ruiz has become one of the country's most controversial figures in only a week's time. He warned that MORENA will combat communism with votes and, if it loses, with weapons.

It has been announced that the ultra-rightist group will participate in the presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in May 1990, and will back the "most anti-Communist" candidate.

Analysis Shows Country's Economy Declining

PA1308235789 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jul 89 pp 27, 28

[Analysis by the Institute of Political Studies]

[Summary] During the first 6 months of this year, "within the framework of a stagnant economic policy, all of Colombia's economic sectors have entered a phase of open deterioration." The Gross National Product [GNP] dropped from a growth of more than 5 percent in 1987 to less than 3.5 percent in 1989.

There are several reasons for the deterioration of the economy. In 1988, inflation reached very high levels and reduced the purchasing power of salaried people. Then, the government aimed its "monetary policy mainly at fighting inflation and at reducing credits to the private and production sectors in order to resolve the growing deficit problems of the government." This "produced hikes in nominal interest rates, and credits for production purposes became more burdensome, a situation that had a negative impact on the dynamics of growth, employment, and production."

"If the current trend persists, the economy could enter a recession phase that would reduce not only the growth rate, but also the number of people employed, with all the social consequences this would entail." In 1988, the country experienced an increase in its international reserves of $345 million. By June of this year, Colombia had already lost $470 million. The country has become a net exporter of capital abroad. The drop in the price of coffee, which is a base of diversified income and Colombia's mainstay, has affected the terms of exchange and the base of Colombian exports.

"A lesson to be learned from this analysis of Colombia's economy covering the past few years is that monetary stability must be safeguarded through institutional limits to avoid government excesses. Part of the constitutional reforms must stress the implementation of rules that clearly define the limits of foreign indebtedness, both domestically and abroad."

World Bank Lends $6 Million for Power System

PA1308222689 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Summary] Japan's Export and Import Bank has lent Colombia $6 million for the purpose of improving the electric energy system, one of the priorities in the country's economic adjustment program. This loan, which is part of Japan's program to channel the country's large commercial surplus toward developing nations, was concluded jointly with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

ELN Reportedly Murders 7 Peasants in Monteria

PA1408033589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Seven peasants, including a woman, have been murdered in Monteria Municipality, Cordoba Department. According to official reports, 20 men belonging to an ELN [Army of National Liberation] column are responsible for these deaths. Autoprocessing Division

Guyana

Government Sends Memo to IMF on Economic Goals

FL1108140589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1725 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 10, CANA—The Guyana Government has not ruled out the possibility of another devaluation of the dollar as it seeks aid from the International Monetary Fund to rebuild the economy.

In a memorandum sent to the IMF, the government indicated that there could be another currency realignment if developments in the parallel exchange market make it necessary. In the memorandum, the government also linked public service wage increases to the official exchange rate, but said it was prepared to offer better salaries for some posts "to attract and retain qualified personnel." In April, the government devalued the Guyana dollar by 70 per cent, triggering a sharp rise in prices. It also announced a 20 per cent pay increase to public sector workers. The devaluation was a key element in an Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) the government is seeking IMF backing for. Guyana hopes to borrow 115.6 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRS) or about U.S. 181 million dollars from the Washington-based financial institution next year.

The government here on Tuesday tabled in parliament a "memorandum on the Economic and Financial Policies of Guyana" which it submitted to the IMF earlier this year. A two-page covering letter dated March 31, 1989 and signed by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge and governor of the Bank of Guyana, Pat Matthews, Guyana's governor and alternate governor, respectively, to the fund, indicated that a "technical memorandum" was submitted at the same time. But that document was not included amongst those circulated in parliament Tuesday.

In the memorandum, the government said "the official exchange rate will be adjusted in line with developments in average nominal wages in the non-financial public sector." Wage increases in excess of certain established guidelines, it said, "will lead to an automatic and proportional adjustment of the official exchange rate". The rate would be "reviewed weekly and appropriatelsy adjusted, taking into account developments in the parallel exchange market and in the net international reserves of the Bank of Guyana."

Referring to the 20 per cent across-the-board increase in wages and salaries given to public service employees with effect from last April 1, the government said that average nominal wages in this sector will now "remain unchanged unless the Guyana dollar is further devalued in response to developments in the parallel market rate or in net international reserves." Noting that over the last few years the public sector has experienced a shortage of qualified personnel which reflects, among other things, "the relatively low level of public service wages," the government said that the streamlining and the restructuring of the operations of the public service "will be associated with opportunities for increasing some salaries to attract and retain qualified personnel."

It added: "These selected salary increases will be pursued in the context of the overall financial constraints of the government and within the framework of income policies during 1990-91. That will keep the public sector wage bill from rising beyond recorded increases in productivity and the trageted rate of inflation."

It also explained that with the exception of some non-unionised workers whose wage rates are set by statute, wages in the private sector will continue to be determined freely.

The memorandum also revealed how far behind its original schedule, the implementation of the Social Impact Amelioration Programme (Siamp) is lagging. The government says the bulk of Simap—including the portion aimed at the rehabilitation of major roads and a food programme for pensioners—should have been in place by June 30, and the portion aimed at providing vocational training for unskilled school leavers should have been in place since March. However, at a recent press conference, vice president of culture and social development, Viola Burnham, explained that the programme is not now likely to get on stream before January, 1990.

It was explained in the memorandum that Guyana's economic imbalances are so severe that they can only be solved fully over the medium to longer term.

The government says it will rely increasingly on the price system as a means of improving resource allocation and economic efficiency; that during the programme period, the prices of margarine, petroleum products, powdered milk, rice, salt, sugar, and bus and taxi fares will be fixed in accordance with their costs and, where appropriate, in accordance with international prices. In addition, the need for the prices of these items to remain under control will be reviewed during the programme period, "with a view to reducing further their scope," but "no new price controls will be introduced and suggested prices will continue to be non-binding."

The memorandum said the operations of public enterprises will continue to be reviewed and rationalised; and, no new public enterprises will be established during 1989-1991, "except for those resulting from changes associated with the rationalisation exercise and/or joint ventures with existing corporations." The government will also move rapidly towards divestment of several state entities and use the net proceeds from the divestment of non-viable enterprises to help reduce domestic public debt. It has also identified a number of public enterprises—including Guyana National Engineerring Corporation, Santa Textiles Ltd., Livestock Development Company Ltd., and Guyana Airways Corporation—to be strengthened by association with private investors, foreign investors, in particular.

It said that the current system of import licensing in the official market, which is used to allocate foreign exchange on a priority basic, will be replaced by the end of October, this year with "a non-discriminatory general system under which licences will be granted automatically for all bona fide transactions." "Until then, foreign exchange will be made available in accordance with established priorities—imports of fuel, and lubricants, essential food and drugs, and imports for agriculture, forestry, transport, mining, and manufacturing" and, beginning in April, 1990, the government will also liberalise payments on services and transfers, with the exception of travel allowances which will be subject to limits.

The government also explained that its ERP seeks to promote competition and to enhance contribution of the private sector to the country's economic development.

"This is to be achieved partly by liberalising the trade and payments system, eliminating transfers to public enterprises engaged in agriculture, manufacturing, and domestic and foreign trade, limiting the scope of the operations of the public enterprises and allowing the private sector to enter into all areas of economic activity."

Meanwhile, the memorandum indicated that the government has established about six specific financial targets and structural benchmarks which will be used to monitor the progress of the implementation of its programme. These targets were detailed in its technical memorandum to the Fund but they have not been released to the public.

Government Presents Wage Offer to Trade Unions

FL1108175189 Bridgetown CANA in English
1615 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 11, CANA—The government has presented proposals to the Guyana Trade Union Congress (TUC) "for a further adjustment in wages and salaries of public sector employees," the official Guyana Public Communications Agency (GPCA) has reported. The GPCA gave no details of the proposals which it said were presented to the TUC by President Desmond Hoyte when a government delegation headed by Hoyte met with a 16-man TUC delegation at the Presidential Secretariat to continue discussions on a range of issues. However, the government had originally offered state-paid workers a 20 per cent pay increase when the national budget was presented March 31.

The discussions between the government and the labour union grouping, which began in March, are intended to come up with proposals for cushioning the impact of some measures contained in the budget, a key aspect of which was the devaluation of the Guyana dollar by 70 per cent.

According to the GPCA, the TUC has requested time to consider the government's proposal and to consult with its affiliates before advising on its position. The TUC, however, is not empowered to negotiate on behalf of its affiliates.

The TUC had been advocating that a minimum wage of at least 93.77 U.S. dollars (one GUY dollar = 3 U.S. cents) per day should be paid. The minimum wage at the moment is just over 30 dollars per day.

Trade Union Congress Asks IMF for Meeting

FL1208154589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1527 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 12, CANA—The Trade Union Congress (TUC) has writen an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission now in Guyana requesting a meeting to discuss Guyana's economic situation.

General secretary of the umbrella organisation, which has 24 affiliates, Joseph Pollydore told CANA the request for the meeting was submitted through Finance Minister Carl Greenidge.

"We have made the request to meet with them ... because we want them to hear from us, directly—not through any intermediary—about our own thinking about the (country's economic recovery) programme and about the approach towards financing the programme," the veteran trade unionist explained.

The IMF team is currently in Guyana to review with local officials, the performance of the local economy since the government's IMF-linked, Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) was launched in April.

Senior government functionaries have already indicated that because the programme is already badly off target, during the current visit of the IMF team, the government would be renegotiating the production and other performance targets.

They have also indicated that the new conditions are likely to be less palatable and that while the government does not believe that another devaluation of the Guyana dollar is necessary at this time, another devaluation should not be ruled out.

The IMF team, which started it's current exercise earlier this week, is expected to be in the country for about three weeks.

Pollydore said that should the IMF team meet with representatives of the TUC, as requested by the TUC, it would be the second such meeting. He said TUC representatives met and held discussions with an IMF team which had visited here earlier in the year.

'Prominent' Guyanese Call for Electoral Reforms

FL1208181389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1753 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 12, CANA—A group of 36 prominent Guyanese published on Saturday [August 12] an "open letter" calling for electoral reforms in Guyana.

"We are convinced that a satisfactory resolution of the elections issue cannot be postponed any longer. To do so, would be to court irreparable damage to the process of economic and social reconstruction" they said in the letter published as a "paid advertisement" in this weekend's issue of the STABROEK NEWS and CATHOLIC STANDARD newspapers.

Among the signatories to the document dated August 10, 1989, are Angolican Bishop Randolph George, Roman Catholic Bishop Benedict Singh, trade unionists Gordon Todd, Nanda Gopual, and Christopher James, businessmen Bunny Fernandes and Vic Insanally, attorneys-at-law Boodnauth Singh, Lloyd Joseph, and Cleveland Hamilton, and poet Martin Carter.

A completely revamped and independent elections commission, new arrangements for voting procedures and counting of ballots, as well as the monitoring of the elections by local and overseas observers are among the proposals of the group.

Following is the text of the letter:

"Guyana has embarked on an economic recovery programme (ERP) of vital importance to the future of the nation. If it is unsuccessful, the downward spiral in the quality of life is likely to continue and migration of Guyanese from all walks of life will accelerate.

At the present time there is a widespread malaise in the society which is, in part, attributable to the breakdown of fundamental public services and shortages of goods. Another source of this malaise, however, hanging like a cloud over the society, is a widely held view that all is not well with the political system. Too many people believe they do not matter and that their voice makes no difference. They feel a sense of alienation,

In our view, as a precondition for the development of the nation, this belief must be replaced by one in which the people have faith and confidence in the political system. Moreover, popular confidence in the way a government is choosen, is as important for succcessful economic development as, for example, foreign exchange. We recofgnise the preoccupation already expressed on this matter by the Christian church leaders.

Because of these considerations, we are compelled to express our concern over the issue of electoral reform in Guyana. We are convinced that a satisfactory resolution of the elections issue cannot be postponed any longer. To do so would be to court irreparable damage to the process of economic and social reconstruction.

Free and fair elections, to be an accurate assessment of public opinion, must contain certain essential requirements. First, conduct of the entire process must be under the control of an independent and impartial authority. Secondly, fair procedures must exist for casting ballots in which every qualified citizen has one (and only one) vote for thhe party of his or her choice. Thirdly, this choice must be made among parties which would all have had

reasonably equal access to the public through the media and public meetings. Finally, this choice must be made in a non-intimidatory atmosphere.

In order to remove any basis for doubts that these conditions for free and fair elections are being pursued as effectively as possible, certain changes in the law regulating elections in Guyana are necessary.

We submit the following proposals for changes which we believe would achieve this desired objective:

1. The creation of an acceptable elections commission which effectively and actively controls the entire electoral process and is the sole, impartial and independent authority with respect to this process. In order to carry out all of its duties, we believe the elections commission should comprise a larger number of independent persons than is currently the case.

2. We draw attention particularly to the following three specific areas of responsibility such a commission should exercise:

a. Compilation of the voters lists should be undertaken in all of its stages by the elections commission and by personnel appointed by the commission.

B. Arrangements for voting procedures, administration of polling stations, the counting of votes and security arrangements should be solely the responsibility of the elections commission. Moreover, we draw attention to the growing demand that counting of ballots at the place of poll be introduced. Furthermore, effective provision is required to ensure that agents of contesting political parties are able to keep in view, ballot boxes from the commencement of the poll until the end of the counting of the votes.

c. An adequate vote of public funds should be made available to the commission to carry out its duties.

3. Observers both local and overseas should be allowed to monitor and scrutinize every aspect of the electoral process.

We submit these proposals in a spirit of civic-mindedness in the hope that it will stimulate widespread public discussion and be the basis for constructive reforms." (end of text)

The full list of signatories is: Bishop Randolph George, Bishop Benedict Singh, Ayube Mc Doom, Fr. Andrew Morrison, Gordon Todd, N.K. Govaul, Cleveland Hamilton, Dr. Herman Ramsammy, Clairmont Lye, Yvonne Forde, Albert Rodrigues, Dr. K. Mangal, Sushil Dharry, Pandit Deosankar Sharma, Dr. Bud Persaud, Rev. George Richmond, Prem Brijbassi, Christopher James, Pandit P. Sookul, Mike Mac cormack, Alice Thomas, Moulvi Abdool Azeez, Janet Forte, Lloyd Joseph, Rev. J. Louchan, Vic Insanally, david Yhann, John Simon de Freitas, Sister Beatrice Fernandes, Gordon Forte, Martin Carter, Bernadette Persaud, Vic Oditt, Lalta Ramgopaul, Doodnauth Singh and Bunny Fernandes.